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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 65/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

The present report reproduces the replies of Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to the request of the Secretary-General for information on the matter.

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* A/66/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, in a note verbale dated 12 April 2011, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide him with any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report. A further Note Verbale was sent on 6 June 2011.

3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations that had been received as of 11 July 2011. Replies received after that date will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[2 June 2011]

Firmly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Algeria once again expresses its profound concern at the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In common with the majority of States Members of the United Nations, Algeria has repeatedly called for the lifting of the embargo endured by the Cuban people for half a century.

Algeria considers that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba is a unilateral act contrary to the principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of the multilateral trading system.

Algeria considers that these coercive measures are affecting Cuba's economic growth and impeding its social and human development. Algeria expresses its deep concern about their negative repercussions on the quality of life and the well-being of Cuban citizens, in particular in the areas of food, health and other essential social services.

Algeria reaffirms its full support for the positions adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in July 2009 in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt), and at the Second South Summit (Group of 77 and China), held in June 2005 in Doha, which rejected the imposition of coercive economic measures and extraterritorial laws on developing countries, and reiterated the need to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

Algeria therefore joins the majority of the States Members of the United Nations in calling for an end to this embargo imposed against Cuba, which has been repeatedly rejected by a growing number of countries and is today virtually unanimously condemned.

Angola

[Original: English]
[23 May 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Angola once again reiterates its unconditional support to the matter addressed in resolution 65/6.

The Government of Angola appreciates the importance that the Secretary-General continues to accord to the issue and appeals to the international community to make efforts to steer Cuba and the United States towards a more constructive and fruitful dialogue in order to reach a definitive solution, which should be none other than the cessation of the financial and trade embargo imposed by the United States.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda expresses its concern at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, despite the overwhelming support by Member States of resolution 65/6, previous resolutions against the embargo, and other relevant international treaties.

Further, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 65/6, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the aforementioned resolution, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirms the freedom of trade and navigation.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[6 July 2011]

The Government of the Argentine Republic has fully implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/6 and previous Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Act No. 24871, enacted on 5 September 1997, establishes the legislative framework governing the scope of application of foreign legislation within the national territory. Under the Act, foreign legislation which, directly or indirectly, is aimed at restricting or impeding the free flow of trade and the movement of capital, goods or persons to the detriment of a given country or group of countries shall neither be applicable nor have legal effects of any kind within the national territory.

Article 1 of that Act provides that foreign legislation which, through the imposition of an economic embargo or limits on investment in a given country, seeks to have extraterritorial legal effects in order to bring about a change of Government in a country or to affect its right to self-determination, shall be absolutely inapplicable and devoid of legal effect.

Argentina's vote in favour of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 65/6 and previous versions of that resolution was a reflection of its traditional position in favour of eliminating this kind of unilateral measure, and of its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism.

Argentina joins the nearly unanimous rejection of such measures and reiterates its opposition thereto and its strong support for Cuba's call for an end to the embargo. It has recently expressed similar views, including support for statements adopted at various multilateral forums since the submission of the previous report, which are described below:

- "Declaration on the Need to End the United States Economic, Trade and Financial Embargo against Cuba", adopted on 23 February 2010 by the Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries, at the Unity Summit in Cancun, Mexico:

  > "The Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, gathered together at the Unity Summit, express our strongest condemnation of the coercive and unilateral economic measures imposed for political reasons against sovereign countries, measures which impair the well-being of our peoples and are designed to curb their exercise of the right to determine of their own free will their political, economic and social systems. We accordingly reiterate the strongest condemnation of such laws and measures that contravene international law as the Helms-Burton Act, and we urge the Government of the United States of America to end them. As a corollary, we call on the Government of the United States of America to comply with the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba. That embargo is contrary to international law, inflicts extensive and unwarranted harm on the Cuban people and affects peace and harmonious relations among the nations of the Americas";

- The following paragraph was included in the declaration of the sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean-European Union, held in Madrid on 18 May 2010:

  > "We firmly reject all coercive measures of unilateral character with extraterritorial effect that are contrary to international law and the commonly accepted rules of free trade. We agree that this type of practice poses a serious threat to multilateralism. In this context, and with reference to United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/6,

> we reaffirm our well-known positions on the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act";

- Joint communiqué issued by the Presidents of the States parties at the thirty-ninth Summit of the Southern Common Market, held in San Juan, Argentine Republic, on 3 August 2010: "...[They] expressed their rejection of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and their belief that it is a measure that is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of international law". They reiterated their call for the immediate lifting of the embargo and the revocation of all legislation and measures contrary to international law that restrict or hinder free trade and navigation;
- "Special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, including the application of the so-called Helms-Burton Act", issued by the twentieth Ibero-American Summit, held in Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic on 3 and 4 December 2010;
- The following paragraph was included in the joint communiqué issued by the Presidents of the States parties at the fortieth Summit of the Southern Common Market, held in Foz do Iguacú, Brazil, on 17 December 2010:

> "Pursuant to the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, they reiterated their rejection of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba and stressed that it was contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law. They reiterated their call for an immediate end to the embargo, which is harming millions of Cubans".

Armenia

[Original: English]
[29 June 2011]

Armenia, suffering an almost 20-year long blockade imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey, has always stood against economic, trade and other kinds of embargoes and blockades, which have a devastating impact on the political, economic and social growth of the affected States, especially those that are landlocked and developing.

Armenian legislation contains no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 65/6.

The Republic of Armenia enjoys diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba and is looking forward to their further development and strengthening.

Australia

[Original: English]
[26 May 2011]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 65/6. Since 1996, the Government of Australia has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba. Australia has no trade or economic legislation or measures which restricts or discourages trade or investment to or from Cuba.

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

The Republic of Azerbaijan firmly upholds norms and principles of international law in its foreign policy.

The Republic of Azerbaijan enjoys friendly diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba. Azerbaijan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, trade or financial relations between Azerbaijan and Cuba. Eight cooperation agreements currently exist between the two republics. In order to further develop bilateral relations, an intergovernmental commission between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Cuba was established on 18 October 2007. During 2010, foreign trade turnover between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Cuba reached to $185,000.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will continue to undertake appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with the Republic of Cuba.

Bahamas

[Original: English]
[4 May 2011]

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas continues to enjoy normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

During the current reporting period, the Bahamas has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Bahamas and the Republic of Cuba.

In this context, the Bahamas recalls and affirms the position of regional and interregional bodies, such as the Caribbean Community, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 65/6. Bangladesh has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the Assembly and voted in its favour.

Barbados

[Original: English]
[2 June 2011]

The Government of Barbados has no laws which in any way restrict freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba.

Barbados has consistently voted in favour of resolution 65/6 since it was first introduced in the General Assembly during its forty-sixth session in 1991.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[6 June 2011]

The Republic of Belarus consistently condemns the use of unilateral economic measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure on developing countries, believing them to be contrary to the basic principles of international law and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments.

The Republic of Belarus advocates the inalienable right of every State to decide on its own model of development. Any unilateral attempts by some States to change the internal political system of other States by using military, political, economic and other forms of pressure are inadmissible.

The foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus adheres strictly to the principles of international law. The legislation of Belarus does not contain laws, decisions or regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Economic pressure exacerbates the suffering of peoples, causing considerable damage to the economy of countries and thus preventing the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. As a consequence of the use of economic measures of coercion, the social and economic development of the countries against which they are used is hampered, violating the rights of entire peoples to a decent existence and greatly contributing to the development of political instability and to the outbreak of conflicts.

Responsibility for the results of the use of unilateral economic measures of coercion must lie with the countries that use and support such measures.

Accordingly, the Republic of Belarus demands an urgent ending of the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed against the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America. The repeal of the United States sanctions could be one of the prerequisites for the further normalization of bilateral relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba.

Relations between Belarus and Cuba are characterized by a high degree of cooperation. Belarus confirms its intention to continue promoting the enhancement of comprehensive cooperation and the development of friendly ties with Cuba.

Belize

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

Belize reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which also form fundamental principles of international law.

In strict observance of the Charter and international law, Belize has consistently supported the resolutions on the embargo against Cuba and met with full compliance thereof, refraining from and rejecting the extraterritorial applications of laws and measures. The ongoing attempt to isolate Cuba in disregard of this annually adopted resolution is a cause of concern. At the bilateral level, Belize continues to engage with Cuba in a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership which has yielded concrete benefits for all our peoples. Our policy of engagement is further enhanced through regional cooperation between the Caribbean Community and Cuba.

Benin

[Original: French]
[28 June 2011]

In keeping with United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/6, adopted on 26 October 2010, the Republic of Benin and the Republic of Cuba, which maintain excellent relations of cooperation and friendship, organized the Benin-Cuba Joint High Commission for Cooperation. That session allowed the two parties to draw up a programme of economic, scientific and technical cooperation intended to give their relationship a higher profile.

The Republic of Benin of course fully endorses the resolution, believing that the economic, commercial, financial and even scientific embargo imposed against Cuba is a great obstacle to the development of that country. It hopes that it will be lifted so as to allow the people and Government of Cuba to enjoy their full sovereignty, in accordance with the original principles and values set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]
[2 June 2011]

The Plurinational State of Bolivia once again reiterates its firm and categorical rejection of the ongoing application by some States of unilateral laws, regulations, provisions and measures for the purpose of imposing an economic, commercial and financial embargo against a State Member of the United Nations, as well as the use of unilateral coercive measures by any country against another.

Bolivia therefore condemns in the strongest terms the embargo and economic war policies that the Government of the United States has imposed on Cuba for almost 50 years. They have had a direct impact on the Cuban people and especially on the most vulnerable sectors of society.

The policies have had a profound impact on children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Similarly, persons with serious illnesses, including cancer and HIV/AIDS, are on a daily basis denied the costly treatments they require, resulting in significant loss of life and human suffering.

The United States embargo against Cuba of almost half a century is contrary to international law, the purposes, principles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the basic principles of international law.

The United States embargo is a criminal policy which, according to very conservative estimates, has caused losses of over $250 billion since its imposition.

Not only does it seriously harm the Cuban people; it also has an adverse effect on the interests and rights of the American people and of other countries and peoples. The embargo severely infringes on the sovereignty of other nations owing to its unilateral extraterritorial reach.

From the point of view of public international law, the extension by the Government of the United States of its territorial jurisdiction over legislative matters is contrary to every principle of international law, particularly the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of another State, and is incompatible with the full exercise of the Cuban people's right to free determination and development.

In the light of this deplorable situation, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not enacted any laws or applied any measures that restrict trade with any country, including the fraternal Republic of Cuba, as they would be contrary to the purposes of General Assembly resolution 65/6. Bolivia and Cuba have in fact strengthened their relations of cooperation based on solidarity and are committed to extending their existing trade relations.

From another perspective, Bolivia wishes to underscore the fundamental precept established by the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), who are strongly opposed to foreign laws that directly or indirectly violate the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of other States and infringe on their sovereignty. The arbitrary stance taken by the United States in not complying with its rights and obligations disrupts the balance and fairness of those rights and obligations. In addition, it undermines the trust that all members placed in the WTO agreements.

The fact that in the past 19 years Cuba has obtained significant international support against the policy imposed by the United States Government is a sign of the increasing sympathy which the struggle of the Cuban people is eliciting at the international level and convincing proof of the almost unanimous rejection by the international community of this inhuman policy.

Accordingly, the Plurinational State of Bolivia joins in endorsing the struggle that Cuba is waging on the international front and expresses its support for General Assembly resolution 65/6, which reflects the international repudiation of this type of unilateral measure, as well as its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism. It also affirms its support for the principle of the juridical equality of all States and confirms that this should take priority over any economic, political or other type of dispute.

Cooperation with Cuba

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has adopted a new type of economic cooperation and complementarity between countries, based on the principles of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement. In keeping with this approach, the First Protocol Additional to Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 47 between Bolivia and Cuba has now entered into force. The full implementation of the Protocol, which was signed on 4 February 2009, reaffirms the closer ties between their Governments and peoples, including market access and complete trade liberalization, thereby promoting fair trade for our peoples.

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia emphasizes that, in spite of the adverse consequences of the embargo imposed by the United States of America, the Government of Cuba has cooperated in areas considered vital for national development. For example, its cooperation in human resources training meets the international standards of United Nations agencies, and Cuba is investing millions of dollars in the academic training of thousands of Bolivian students on full scholarships.

With regard to cooperation in the area of education, Bolivia has received support for literacy and post-literacy programmes, which are part of a State policy to overcome a historical legacy of exclusion of poor sectors from the right to education. The plan is being implemented with technical and economic support from the Republic of Cuba.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia was declared to be a country free of illiteracy in December 2008, when over 824,000 persons graduated under the programme entitled "Yo sí puedo" (Yes, I can), to which Cuba directly provided ongoing pedagogical advice. Now, in the second part of this post-literacy programme entitled "Yo sí puedo seguir" (I can continue), Bolivia is working to provide over a five-year period instruction equivalent to the fifth grade of primary education and the goal is to reach about 1 million beneficiaries.

Cooperation in the health sector is another central pillar of Cuba's cooperation efforts, supporting the training of human resources by means of fellowships and medical assistance from the Cuban medical brigade, which covers the entire Bolivian territory, helping low-income groups in places where Bolivian institutional health mechanisms do not have a significant presence.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledges the effort made by Cuba to cooperate with the Bolivian people. In spite of the significant harm caused by the embargo to its economy, this cooperation is clearly illustrated by some figures: over 46 million free medical consultations; over 47,900 lives saved; and over 586,337 eye operations, also performed without charge in the framework of "Operación milagro" ("Operation Miracle"), which have restored the sight or improved the vision of Bolivian men and women of varied backgrounds and social status. This important project providing ophthalmological care has benefited not only the Bolivian people (482,200 citizens) but also the population of neighbouring countries. To date, since 2005, it has benefited 46,000 Brazilians, 33,800 Argentines, 21,900 Peruvians and 312 Paraguayans. Under the same project, 1,639 people have so far been operated on in Cuba.

Cooperation with human resources training is being provided under the programme of fellowships. There has been an unprecedented expansion in the number of scholarships awarded to low-income Bolivian students in rural areas, of peasant or indigenous origin, under new projects initiated recently to supplement existing cooperation. As a result, Bolivian scholarship-holders in Cuba currently number more than 5,800 from various areas, most of them studying medicine and the remaining 10 per cent studying other subjects. Some of these scholarship-holders have now returned to Bolivia to complete their medical studies and are helping to shape their country's dynamics.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia also receives cooperation in other areas, such as sports. Scholarships have been awarded in sports medicine and six Cuban trainers have arrived to train Bolivian sportsmen. As regards energy saving, the energy efficiency programme launched in March 2008 was concluded in April 2009. Cuba has also provided many rural settlements in Bolivia with electricity by installing solar panels.

Accessions by Bolivia

The United States policy of embargo has remained intact despite increasing international calls for it to end and the worldwide expectation regarding this possibility with the advent of a new administration. Since the election of United States President Barack Obama, many presidents, organizations, institutions and international figures have increased their calls for a definitive halt to these illegal policies which are harmful to the Cuban people. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has shown firmness and solidarity in joining this call, in the hope that rationality will prevail, together with respect for a free choice of the economic and political system which best serves the people, without external pressures or irregular policies that constitute a crime against an entire people.

In the various international forums of which it is a member, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has expressed its opposition to the embargo against Cuba. The eleventh Summit of Presidents of the member States of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, held in Venezuela on 3 April 2011, is one example. Similarly, at the Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 27 May 2011, Bolivia firmly rejected the unilateral measures contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law that were being applied by some countries against others, including the United States embargo against Cuba.

At the Thirty-ninth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on 2 and 3 June 2009, the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, His Excellency Mr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, reiterating his strong solidarity with the Cuban people and Government, negotiated the revocation of the decision taken in 1962 to suspend Cuba from the inter-American system. That sent a positive signal with regard to the intention of the United States to change direction in its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, especially as the highest authorities of the United States realized that their policy of isolating some countries in the region had had counterproductive results.

For all of these reasons, the Plurinational State of Bolivia considers that it is now more important than ever to adopt a resolution expressing the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which would be an important contribution to consolidating and supporting the international call for the United States to move towards the definitive elimination of this policy. Accordingly, the Plurinational State of Bolivia calls upon the United States of America unilaterally and immediately to bring an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba without any preconditions.

Bolivia requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to keep Member States and the relevant bodies informed regarding the negative impact on Cuba of the policies and practices imposed by the Government of the United States of America under its economic, commercial and financial embargo of that sovereign country, measures which also affect the sovereignty of the other States Members of the United Nations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[11 July 2011]

Reaffirming its fundamental commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, Bosnia and Herzegovina has neither promulgated nor applied laws, regulations, measures or acts that have an extraterritorial effect or affect the sovereignty of any other Member State of the United Nations, as stipulated in the preamble of resolution 65/6 of the General Assembly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the General Assembly and voted in its favour.

Botswana

[Original: English]
[23 May 2011]

The Republic of Botswana has never and does not intend to promulgate, apply and enforce any laws and measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 65/6. As reflected by its vote on the above-cited resolution, Botswana is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures, and in this regard supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[14 June 2011]

Brazil reiterates its position that discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws run counter to the need to promote dialogue and to uphold the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6 and 65/6, Brazil has not promulgated or applied any law, regulation or measure with extraterritorial effects that could affect the sovereignty of other States or the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and navigation. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects.

In addition, companies located in Brazil are subject exclusively to Brazilian legislation. Measures by any country that violate the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/6 or that attempt to compel citizens of a third country to obey foreign legislation affect the interests of the international community as a whole and violate generally accepted principles of international law. They should be reviewed and changed in order to bring them into conformity with international law.

Furthermore, Governments not complying with General Assembly resolution 65/6 should urgently take further steps to eliminate discriminatory trade practices and bring to an end unilaterally declared economic, commercial and financial embargoes. Brazil reiterates its strong belief that discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws are detrimental, not only to dialogue but also to the very prevalence of the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Brazilian Government has consistently opposed the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba. Accordingly, Brazil has also continued to foster and pursue a growing economic relationship with Cuba. Bilateral trade has been dynamic and trade flows grew sixfold between 2003 and 2008. Brazil is also providing funding for the construction of the port of Mariel, which will have significant consequences for Cuban foreign trade.

Apart from maintaining a close dialogue and a sound economic relationship, which generate mutual benefits and have a positive impact on initiatives involving other United Nations members, Brazil and Cuba share views on the importance of promoting South-South cooperation to address core international challenges. In March 2010, Brazil and Cuba signed a memorandum of understanding with a view to strengthening public health services and epidemiological surveillance in Haiti, which will result in important stimulus to the improvement of health services for the Haitian people. The project was approved by the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission in August 2010 to receive $70 million in funding from the Brazilian Government.

The maintenance of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is inconsistent with the dynamic regional policy that has recently been marked by the return of Cuba to dialogue and cooperation forums of the Americas. In

December 2008, Cuba participated in the first Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean and joined the Rio Group. In June 2009, resolution 2438 (XXXIX) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States revoked the suspension of Cuba from the organization.

In that regard, Brazil continues to welcome the encouraging overtures made by the Government of the United States of America since 2009 and believes that more remains to be done in order to bring about real change for the Cuban people, who suffer the most as a result of the embargo.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[16 June 2011]

Burkina Faso wishes once again to affirm its attachment to the fundamental principle of free trade, especially in this era of globalization. It condemns any unilateral decision that seeks to restrict the economic, commercial and financial freedom of a State.

Burkina Faso therefore renews its call for the strict enforcement of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/6 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. It once more invites the parties to focus on settling their dispute peacefully, through recourse to the appropriate international bodies or through direct negotiation.

Burkina Faso is hopeful that the change in the leadership of both States will pave the way for a change of positions, enabling them to enter into a direct dialogue that could very quickly lead to the end of the embargo.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[26 May 2011]

It has always been the position of the Government of Burundi that it opposes the embargo.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[13 May 2011]

The Royal Government of Cambodia fully supports the unconditional lifting of the sanction imposed unjustly against the Republic of Cuba.

The continuation for over four decades of the immoral embargo has caused enormous suffering and massive economic losses to the innocent people of Cuba. Therefore, the Royal Government of Cambodia, once again, demands an end to this unjustified embargo.

Cameroon

[Original: French]
[10 June 2011]

Pursuant to resolution 65/6 and the earlier resolutions on the same question, and in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the freedom of international trade upheld in many international legal instruments, Cameroon has never adopted laws or regulations intended to strengthen or extend the embargo against Cuba. Cameroon has always voted in favour of lifting the embargo, and maintains excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with Cuba. Our country hails the decision the United States took in 2009 to lift restrictions on funds transfers and family travel to Cuba, and encourages both the United States and Cuba to make a greater effort to improve relations between them and bring about the full lifting of the embargo.

Cape Verde

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

The Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the National Constitution and in conformity with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which promotes solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among countries and nations, has never promulgated or applied any law or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Central African Republic

[Original: French]
[3 June 2011]

The Constitution of the Central African Republic stipulates clearly that the nation's concern must be to promote good-neighbourly relations with other States. This conviction is reinforced by the fact that peaceful coexistence is the basis of international relations, on which all other exchanges depend. Accordingly, the Central African Republic considers that the embargo imposed against Cuba is contrary to the rules of international law and international humanitarian law. The embargo must be lifted to allow free circulation of goods and persons in the subregion. The Central African Government will stand behind the Cuban people in their struggle as long as the embargo is not completely lifted.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[19 May 2011]

Chile maintains its position, reiterating its condemnation of the embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States, and it again undertakes to ensure that the matter is pursued. The stand Chile has taken is based on, among other principles, the equality of States before the law, non-interference, and freedom of trade and navigation.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[30 May 2011]

For 19 straight years the United Nations General Assembly has adopted, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America and urging all countries to comply with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and to revoke or nullify any laws and measures which have extraterritorial effects, which encroach upon their sovereignty and the legitimate interests of entities and individuals within their jurisdiction, and which hamper the freedom of trade and navigation.

Regrettably, over the years these resolutions have not been effectively implemented and the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba has not been lifted. This is not only a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of relevant United Nations resolutions, but also a source of immense economic and financial losses for Cuba. It is an impediment to efforts by the Cuban people to eradicate poverty, to promote their economic and social development and to attain the Millennium Development Goals, it impairs the Cuban people's right to survival and development, and it adversely affects normal economic, commercial and financial relations between Cuba and other countries. At a time when the international community is severely challenged by a range of crises in the domains of finance, food and energy, together with the problems of climate change, the embargo and sanctions against Cuba are more unreasonable than ever before.

The Chinese Government has always maintained that the international community should base the development of mutual relations on the purposes and principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations, should respect the right of all countries independently to choose their social system and path of development, and should oppose the unilateral imposition on countries of military, political, economic or other sanctions. For its own part, China has always strictly observed and implemented the relevant United Nations resolutions. Currently, China and Cuba are maintaining normal economic and trade relations and conducting personnel exchanges, and the two countries' mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation in various areas continues to grow. This approach is both consistent with the aspirations of the people of China and Cuba and also conducive to Cuba's economic and social development.

In today's world, dialogue, communication and harmonious coexistence have become key elements of international relations and there is an irreversible trend towards communication and cooperation on an equal footing between all countries. When differences arise between countries, equal dialogue and friendly consultation offer the best means of reaching a settlement. China hopes that the United States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions, will put an end as soon as possible to its blockade against Cuba and it also hopes that relations between the two countries will continue to improve, thus promoting stability and development in the entire Latin American and Caribbean region.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2011]

The Government of Colombia will continue the political support it has always given Cuba, and reaffirms that in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, it has not enacted or applied any laws or measures intended to blockade Cuba economically, commercially or financially.

Comoros

[Original: English]
[18 April 2011]

The Government of the Union of the Comoros reaffirms its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations with extraterritorial effects which affect the sovereignty of other States.

Congo

[Original: French]
[20 June 2011]

The Republic of the Congo has neither enacted nor applied any laws or regulations favouring the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, thus complying with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, with the principles of international law and with General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Mindful of the provisions of that resolution, the Republic of the Congo, considering the excellent relations it has with the Republic of Cuba, has always voted in favour of resolutions recommending the lifting of the embargo, because it considers it to be a unilateral, discriminatory measure contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

In the light of the above, the Congo is opposed to the extraterritoriality of the embargo and to recent measures and laws like the Helms-Burton Act, which only compound the suffering of the Cuban people.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[6 June 2011]

The Government of Costa Rica wishes to reiterate that it has not enacted or applied laws intended to enforce the economic embargo against Cuba, and that it is complying with United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Costa Rica takes this position because it is opposed to unilateral coercive measures against any State and because it has opted for multilateralism and dialogue as the way to resolve disputes among States and Governments.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]
[26 May 2011]

The Ivorian Government has not adopted any kind of economic or commercial measure that goes against the interests of Cuba.

The Ivorian Government has, moreover, not adopted any legal or regulatory provision whose extraterritorial effects would encroach on the sovereignty of Cuba or its freedom of trade and navigation.

Croatia

[Original: English]
[16 April 2011]

The Republic of Croatia, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements resolution 65/6 and has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the said resolution.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 July 2011]

Introduction

The Government of the United States is continuing and strengthening its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, despite the strong and growing demands for its elimination by the international community, in particular the United Nations General Assembly. Although the current United States Government has taken some positive steps, they are insufficient and extremely limited and are not intended to alter the complex fabric of law, regulations and provisions that make up the embargo policy against Cuba.

The Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917; the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; the Export Administration Act of 1979; the Torricelli Act of 1992; the Helms-Burton Act of 1996; and the export administration regulations are not only still current, but they are part of the legal architecture of a policy that constitutes an act of genocide under the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948 Geneva Convention), and as an act of economic war under the terms of the Declaration concerning the laws of naval war, adopted by the Naval Conference of London in 1909.

As a result of the strict and vicious application of these laws and other regulatory requirements, Cuba remains unable freely to export and import products and services to or from the United States of America, use the United States dollar for international financial transactions or hold United States dollar-denominated accounts with third-country banks. Cuba is also denied access to loans from banks in the United States, their subsidiaries in third countries and international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Despite the official rhetoric that attempts to convince international public opinion that the current United States Government has introduced positive policy changes, Cuba is still unable to trade with subsidiaries of United States companies in third countries and businessmen from third countries interested in investing in Cuba are systematically threatened and blacklisted.

The increased interference with Cuba's international financial transactions, including those coming from multilateral organizations for cooperation with the island, has been one of the distinctive features of the current administration's application of the embargo policy.

The leaders of the most furiously anti-Cuban groups, which control the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States House of Representatives, are preparing for a new strike in their obsession against Cuba, designed to impede and obstruct the presence of foreign companies interested in oil exploration in Cuba's exclusive economic zone.

In that connection, the request made on 19 May 2011 by Senator Bill Nelson (Florida) to the Secretary of State, for the Administration to intervene with the Spanish Government to stop the Spanish oil company Repsol from going ahead with its planned exploratory work in Cuba, and the action taken to that effect by a high-level political delegation from the United States Government to Madrid, led by Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, shows that the action against Cuba knows no boundaries or sovereignties.

According to the present report, the accumulated direct economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo by December 2010, based on very conservative estimates, amounted to more than US$ 104 billion at current prices.

If the estimates were to take into account the fact that the value of the dollar has depreciated in relation to the price of gold on the international financial market, which has been extremely high during 2010 and is continuing to rise, the total impact on the Cuban economy would be over US$ 975 billion.

Chapter I. Continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba

The economic, commercial and financial embargo of the United States against Cuba has continued to be applied with full rigour. The legal basis for this policy remains intact and the political, administrative and repressive machinery has been strengthened in order to make the embargo more effective and in particular to harass and interfere with Cuban commercial and financial transactions throughout the world.

The export of products or services of any kind from Cuba to the United States remains prohibited. Export of products or services from the United States to Cuba is also still prohibited, with a very few strictly regulated exceptions. Merchant vessels of any country that enter Cuban ports are still barred from entering United States ports for 180 days.

No third-country company that is in any way affiliated with or holds an interest in a United States company may do business with Cuban companies, regardless of the host country's relations with Cuba, the current laws in the company's country of origin or the rules of international law. The authorities of the United States Government harass, threaten and impose penalties on third-country companies with trade ties to Cuba in every corner of the world, regardless of their origin or assets and whether or not they have ties with the United States. Interference in Cuba's financial transactions with third countries is increasing, regardless of those countries' relations with Cuba, the currency they use or their current banking regulations.

Government regulations prohibit United States citizens from travelling to Cuba, with a very few strictly regulated exceptions.

The United States Government continues to refer publicly to the supposed need to maintain the embargo as a tool to apply pressure and continues to cite internal factors as a condition for changing its policy towards Cuba. It is clear that it has no intention of changing its policy towards the island, or of complying with the repeated United Nations General Assembly resolutions requesting it to put an end to this inhumane policy.

The measures announced by the United States Government on 14 January 2011, including the authorization of travel to Cuba by United States citizens for academic, educational, cultural and religious purposes; permission for United States citizens to send limited amounts as remittances to Cuban citizens; and the authorization for United States international airports to operate direct charter flights to Cuba under certain conditions; are insufficient and are limited in scope. Essentially, these measures do not indicate that there is any will on the part of the United States Government to make a substantial change in the embargo policy, but rather they reflect the growing opposition from broad sectors of United States society to this continued policy.

With the measures of 14 January, the United States Government intended to have a positive impact on the image of its failed policy towards Cuba at a time of overwhelming domestic and international rejection of that policy. Nevertheless, the measures are basically limited to re-establishing some of the provisions that were in force in the 1990s under President Clinton's Government, and were eliminated by George W. Bush in 2003. The constitutional right of United States citizens to travel freely remains a pipe dream in the twenty-first century. They are still the only citizens in the world who are prohibited from visiting Cuba. By announcing these measures, the United States Government made it clear that the embargo will be maintained intact and that its plans to use such measures to strengthen its tools for subversion and interference in the internal affairs of Cuba.

Main measures adopted by the United States Government to maintain the embargo

The United States Government is maintaining intact the framework of laws and administrative provisions that make up the legal and regulatory basis of the embargo. It has not done anything to modify the foundations on which the policy governing the embargo rests. This is demonstrated by the laws and regulations in force, which are enumerated below.

Trading with the Enemy Act (TWEA). This Act was promulgated as a wartime measure in 1917 to restrict trade with nations considered hostile. Its application was widened subsequently to authorize the President to regulate property transactions by one of its nationals involving a foreign country both in wartime and during any other period of national emergency declared by the President. The Act provides the basis for the first embargo regulations imposed against Cuba in 1962.

On 2 September 2010, President Obama announced the extension of the Trading with the Enemy Act, which in practice means that the embargo against Cuba is continued. It was stated in a memorandum signed by the President and addressed to the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, that the continuation of those measures with respect to Cuba was in the national interest of the United States.

Foreign Assistance Act. In September 1961, the United States Congress promulgated this act, which authorizes the President to establish and maintain a total embargo on trade between the United States and Cuba. It also prohibits the granting of any aid to the Government of Cuba.

Export Administration Act (EAA). Adopted in 1979 as a result of a review of export controls, this Act granted the President the authority to control the export and re-export of goods and technology in general and, in particular, any exports that might be considered detrimental to the national security of the United States.

Cuban Democracy Act. Better known as the Torricelli Act, this piece of legislation was signed by President Bush Senior in October 1992. With this Act, the United States Government strengthened its economic measures against Cuba and provided policy support for the extraterritorial application of the embargo. Among other restrictions, it prohibits United States companies' subsidiaries in third countries from carrying out transactions with Cuba or Cuban nationals and the entry into United States territory, for a period of 180 days, of vessels belonging to third countries that have called at Cuban ports.

Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act. Known as the Helms-Burton Act, it was approved by President Clinton in March 1996. Its main objective is to hinder and discourage foreign investment and to internationalize the embargo against Cuba. It codified the provisions of the embargo, limited the President's powers to lift the embargo and broadened the embargo's extraterritorial scope. It denied entry into the United States to senior officials (and their family members) of foreign companies that invest in "confiscated" property in Cuba and introduced the possibility of pursuing claims against them in United States courts.

Export Administration Regulations (EAR). They regulate exceptions to the Export Administration Act, including those that are authorized by licences issued by the Bureau of Industry and Security in the Department of Commerce. The regulations are governed by the Trading with the Enemy Act and the Export Administration Act.

The scale of the legislation and regulations described above demonstrates that no embargo has been as comprehensive or as brutal as the embargo which the United States continues to impose against Cuba.

1.2 Extraterritorial application of the embargo

After over two years of a Democrat Administration that intended to have a global impact with its discourse of change and renewal, the extraterritorial dimension of the United States policy against Cuba has intensified. Sanctions and the extraterritorial persecution of citizens, institutions and companies of third countries that have established or have proposed the establishment of economic, commercial, financial or scientific and technical relations with Cuba have been stiffened, with the United States Government thereby presuming to decide on matters that fall under the sovereignty of other States. Furthermore, the prominent role of the United States in the global economy and the processes of global strategic partnerships, corporate mergers and mega-mergers continues to have a negative impact on Cuba and increases the negative effects of the embargo by reducing Cuba's external economic opportunities.

The main pillars of the extraterritoriality policy are as follows:

- United States companies' subsidiaries in third countries are banned from carrying out any kind of transaction with companies in Cuba.
- The export to the United States, by third-country companies, of products originating in Cuba or containing any components of Cuban origin, is banned.
- Third-country companies are banned from selling goods or services to Cuba if more than 10 per cent of their technology consists of United States components, even if their owners are third-country nationals.
- Vessels transporting goods from or to Cuba, regardless of the flag State, are banned from entering United States ports.
- Third-party banks are banned from opening United States dollar-denominated accounts for Cuban natural or legal persons or from conducting financial transactions in United States dollars with Cuban entities or individuals.
- Third-country business people who have investments in or conduct business with Cuba are penalized with the denial of United States visas, which may extend to family members. They are even subject to legal action in United States courts if their transactions with Cuba involve property related to claims by United States citizens or Cuban born individuals who subsequently acquired United States citizenship.

During the period from March 2010 to April 2011, many fines amounting to millions were imposed on United States and foreign banks for conducting transactions with Cuba. This type of sanction acts as a disincentive and in the specific case of banks, it either results in the cutting of ties with Cuba or renders transactions in the country unstable.

The persecution and harassment of individuals and companies in third countries have reached insane levels and also show that the embargo against Cuba is still being applied extraterritorially.

In 2010, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury levied fines totalling US$ 502,721,671 on four companies, the largest being levied on the bank ABN AMRO of the Netherlands, for carrying out unauthorized transactions in which Cuba or Cuban nationals had an interest.

On 15 July 2010, the Office of Foreign Assets Control reported that the United Nations Federal Credit Union had been fined US$ 500,000 for carrying out unauthorized financial transactions in which Cuba had an interest.

On 27 July 2010, Imeco, an import agency of the Cuban Ministry of Construction, signed a contract with the Panamanian provider Vibas Import Export S.A. to provide 4 Komatsu road graders through Tiesa, the distributor for Komatsu in Panama. Two of the items could not be delivered because the Komatsu America Corporation refused to supply them. Komatsu America claimed to have evidence that two road graders had previously been sent to Cuba. This had a serious impact on the schedule for investment in the ferronickel work. Each road grader was worth US$ 235,000.

On 16 August 2010, the British bank Barclays reached an agreement with United States federal prosecutors, according to which it would pay US$ 298 million for altering financial records from 1995 to 2006 in order to hide financial transactions from Cuba, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan and Myanmar to United States banks amounting to US$ 500 million. For the prosecutors, those transactions constituted a violation of the Trading with the Enemy Act and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Sixty-one of the transactions carried out were with Cuba, for an estimated total of US$ 6,711,798.

In September 2010, the Office of Foreign Assets Control requested the non-governmental organization Medical Education and Cooperation with Cuba to provide all information on its travel to and links with Cuba in order to carry out an investigation. At the same time, members of the Global Links organization, which provides medical technical assistance to developing countries, received a warning from the Office of Foreign Assets Control that they had exceeded the permitted number of days in Cuba.

In the last three months of 2010, the company Pinturas Vitral had to stop production in three factories, which prevented the production of 893,800 litres of emulsion, oil and enamel paints, worth US$ 2,285,800, because of the cancellation of the supply of 120 tons of rutile titanium dioxide for paint production for the two-month period January-February 2011, by the supplier, Petroplastic of Mexico.

In March 2011, it was reported that a duty-free shop for diplomats in Spain refused to sell a few packets of cigarettes to a Cuban diplomat, citing the embargo laws. The only explanation offered by the staff was that the sale of Philip Morris products to Cuban citizens, including diplomats, was prohibited by the regulations imposed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

On 21 March 2011, the Portuguese company DigitalSign, citing the embargo laws, informed the Cuban company Neuronic that DigitalSign would not provide it with a digital certificate, as authentication services were provided by VeriSign, a United States company.

On 7 April 2011, the Office of Foreign Assets Control levied a fine of US$ 22,500 on the New York insurance company METLIFE for mailing a cheque directly to a Cuban national.

On 17 April 2011, it was reported that the United States Government had requested the Spanish bank BBVA to explain the statement made in its annual report that it had one employee in Cuba. The United States Securities and Exchange

Commission also requested the Bank to describe the nature and extent of its past, current and anticipated activities in Cuba and also asked it to describe any contacts with Cuban authorities. As reported in the Wikileaks publications, the United States Government has decided to focus its action in particular on Spanish companies with a view to maintaining constant harassment in order to interrupt their links with Cuba.

On 25 April 2011, the company e-Bay PayPal, which makes bank transfers via the Internet, cancelled a remittance of funds from the Cuba Support Group in Ireland to the Cuban account in which donations were collected for Haiti, following the devastating earthquake that affected that country. PayPal issued the following message: "PayPal would be in violation, under the Trading with the Enemy Act, if we facilitated transactions where funds benefit Cuba ... and would be subject to penalties as defined by OFAC".

The Spanish company Flint Inc., Sheetfed Division, reported that substitutes would have to be provided for two products for the Cuban printing industry because their composition contained more raw material of United States origin than permitted for exports to Cuba under United States legislation.

A European company cancelled the supply of backhoe loaders, model R984C, for the Cuban nickel industry, because they contained a United States Cummins engine, which the manufacturers were prohibited from selling to Cuba. This made it necessary to change the standard backhoe loader model, which caused losses which have not yet been quantified in terms of efficiency, inventory and management time.

The fact that the Cuban nickel industry was unable to continue to purchase its sulphuric from the company Mexicana de Cobre caused a loss of US$ 14,844,128 for Cuba. In 2010, 410,491.632 tons were imported, for an average freight price of US$ 73.66 per ton, whereas the cost of transporting the same product from Mexico would have been US$ 37.50 per ton.

The European supplier of compressor spare parts for a cobalt and leaching plant informed the Comandante René Ramos Latour nickel plant that it could not carry out the transaction because the manufacturer of the merchandise was from the United States and was not permitted to conduct business with Cuba. To date, the impact has amounted to US$ 26,300.

As a result of the acquisition of the company Centac, a producer of compressors for the oil industry, with capital of United States origin, the purchase of spare parts for existing equipment in the country has become much more expensive. Although the cost of a compressor is of the order of US$ 60,000, third-county companies have offered Cuba the necessary parts for US$ 191,000, which is three times more expensive than the compressor itself.

1.3 Impacts of the embargo on cooperation from multilateral organizations

The impacts of the embargo as part of the United States policy against Cuba have intensified in the context of international multilateral organizations under the Government of President Obama.

In January 2011, the United State Government froze US$ 4,207,000 in funds that had been assigned by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to implement cooperation projects with Cuba to fight the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and tuberculosis. This deliberate act to hinder the implementation of three projects which are known to have a significant impact on segments of the population has no legitimacy or foundation other than the resolve to continue tightening the embargo policy in one of the most vulnerable sectors for the Cuban Government and population.

Cuba has denounced this measure as an illegal action that is also designed to seriously hinder the international cooperation provided by the United Nations system through its agencies, funds and programmes. This action is all the more serious as it affects the funds intended for training, prevention and treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, in particular the purchase of medicines, antiretroviral drugs and food needed by the sick. The Cuban Government and the international community are deploying every effort to eradicate these pandemics as part of their efforts to meet one of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

As a result of Cuba's complaint, the Department of the Treasury decided to issue a general license in May 2011 to release those funds, a license which will expire in June 2015. However, even with that decision, the United States Government is taking upon itself, arbitrarily and selectively, the right to control the funds which are allocated to Cuba through multilateral cooperation.

In another connection, Cuba was also unable to purchase an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer at a cost of US$ 193,000, which was requested as part of a project implemented by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), entitled "Strengthening Official Control of Chemical Residues and Contaminants in Fishery Products" (CUB/5/018), which introduces nuclear analytical techniques. This item of equipment is used in the fishing industry to verify and guarantee the quality and safety of all fish products; and also to control chemical residues and contaminants in aquaculture products.

As an alternative, it has been necessary to contract out large numbers of analytical services to foreign companies, which causes considerable difficulties that relate mainly to high prices, amounting to US$ 70,000, the shipping of samples and the probable risk of loss of confidentiality of the results.

Similarly, the Swiss banks UBS and Credit Suisse, in which most of the international organizations with headquarters in Geneva hold their accounts, have refused, since the end of 2006, to receive direct bank transfers from Cuban institutions, such as the Cuban Industrial Property Office (OCPI) and other legal entities with headquarters in Cuba, for payments made to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), pursuant to international treaties, for the registration and renewal of patents and trademarks of Cuban companies or companies with Cuban venture capital. Both banks have followed the orders of the United States and have participated in implementing extraterritorial laws.

As a result of the same policy designed to affect Cuba's cooperation with international organizations, the Centre of Environmental Studies in Cienfuegos, which had purchased a Carl Zeiss Axiovert-40 microscope from the German company Carl Zeiss through the IAEA-financed project RLA 7/014, entitled "Designing and Implementing Systems for Early Warning and Evaluation of the Toxicity of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Caribbean Region, Applying Advanced Nuclear Techniques", could not purchase the AxioVision microscope image processing software. The purchase was denied because the software contains United States components.

The United States Department of the Treasury froze US$ 8,375 that was intended for payment to a foreign supplier of equipment and software inputs ordered by the Cuban company Empresa Ejecutora de Donativos in the context of the UNDP local human development programme for a project in the Cuban province of Pinar del Rio.

Chapter 2. Impact of the embargo on socially sensitive sectors

2.1 Impact on health and food

The public health and food sectors continue to be priority targets of the embargo policy.

Public health

Between May 2010 and April 2011, the public health sector incurred losses amounting to US$ 15 million, primarily because of the need to make purchases on distant markets and to increases in import prices of medical consumables and instruments and in drugs, reagents, spare parts and equipment.

The embargo has had a particularly harsh impact on Cuba in this area, not only because of the economic consequences but because of the suffering of patients and their families when, as is often the case, they are unable to access the appropriate medicines when needed in order to treat a disease.

Although the export of medical drugs, accessories and devices to Cuba is authorized under the Torricelli Act (1992) and the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act (2000), there are still extensive restrictions. The sale of health care products is not covered by the licence exemption (or automatic exemption) that the Department of Commerce has established for agricultural products. A specific licence, granted on a case-by-case basis and valid for a given period, is required. Products subject to authorization must meet the control and classification requirements contained in the Department of Commerce Export Administration Regulations, which establish control lists on the basis of national security considerations or issues related to the biotechnology industry. The granting of licences is contingent on the United States Government's ability to monitor and verify, through on-site inspections or by other means, that the product will be used for the authorized purpose. As a matter of policy, the sale of state-of-the-art technology in this sector is not authorized.

To date, direct imports from the United State have been minimal and, for the most part, limited to consumables. The following are some of the many examples of the adverse effects of the embargo on the health sector.

The Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery plans to perform some 400 operations this year; 70 per cent of these will be coronary bypasses, which require 24 to 30 mammary artery clips per patient. If Cuba could purchase them from the United States company, Horizon, they would cost US$ 0.30 to US$ 0.40 apiece; when purchased from other countries, they cost US$ 0.78 apiece.

Furthermore, since the manufacturer of mitral and aortic valves, Saint Jude, no longer does business in Cuba, the Institute must purchase them from other countries at a cost of US$ 1,200 apiece, US$ 400 to US$ 500 more than the price charged by Saint Jude. The same is true of the cost of cardiac stabilizers and positioners, which are used to perform heart surgery without stopping the heart. Cuba is denied the right to purchase them from the company Medtronic.

The Frank País Hospital, which specializes in orthopaedics and trauma care, has been obliged to turn to other markets and to modify some of its services since the United States company Amron, which has its headquarters in California, refuses to provide needed components for triennial maintenance of the hyperbaric chamber purchased from the Mexican company Remisa. Similarly, the United States company Kapak refuses to provide that hospital — the only one in Cuba with a bone tissue bank — with the high-density polyethylene bags used to hold processed tissue; this has caused countless problems.

Cuba's National Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases has been unable to purchase from the United States company PerkinElmer gamma radiation counting equipment to be used in processing hormone analyses conducted in order to diagnose endocrinological and metabolic problems or to obtain spare parts for the maintenance of equipment acquired in 1974; it is forced to turn to the European market at a considerably higher cost.

The Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology's paediatric oncology unit has been unable to use expandable prostheses to replace bone segments in cancer surgery; consequently, it has been unable to provide conservative or functional treatment to children and adolescents with bone cancer since these prostheses are sold by United States companies. The Institute's Radiotherapy Department has also faced serious problems in acquiring parts and accessories since the purchase of the Canadian company MDS Nordion by the United States company Best Medical.

As noted in previous reports, Cuba is still not permitted to purchase new United-States-made cytostatics, such as liposomal adriamycin and nitrosoureas, which are specifics in the treatment of brain tumours.

The same is true of the most recent generation of orally administered antibiotics for infants. Some substitutes have been acquired, but they are incomplete and late; this makes it impossible to provide full treatment in a timely manner.

The Institute of Oncology does not have a flow cytometer, used to study cancer cells, because the United States company Becton Dickinson, on learning that the end-user was Cuba, refused to sell it to the company acting as intermediary for the purchase.

Cuba's National Kidney Transplant Programme needs high quality anti-human-leucocyte-antigen (HLA) serological reagents for its histocompatibility studies, which are conducted scientifically and ethically. For many years, it purchased them from the company One Lambda through third countries. The tightening of the embargo has made it more difficult to purchase these reagents; this will prevent the continued operation of the National Transplant Programme or reduce the scientific quality of its work.

Food

The embargo is having a negative impact on the food sector and, owing to the importance of this issue, is causing direct harm to the Cuban people. From March 2010 to March 2011, the losses amounted to some US$ 120.3 million. The effects of the embargo in this area include the need to purchase food on distant markets with increased insurance and freight charges, often on unfavourable terms.

Although agricultural products and food can be imported from the United States, the company Alimport faces problems as a result of the onerous conditions and heavy regulations imposed since 2001 and of the financial impact and loss of logistical opportunities on other markets. The loss in this area is on the order of US$ 90.8 million dollars; at 2010 prices, this is equivalent to the purchase of 325,000 tons of wheat, 380,000 tons of corn or 125,000 tons of chicken.

The complex licensing mechanism that applies to travel by United States businessmen, the signing of contracts, transport, and expenses arising from such transactions is still in operation. In addition to these conditions, the Office of Foreign Assets Control can cancel these licences without warning or explanation. The following examples illustrate this situation.

The company Coracan S.A., which produces and markets instant food products, incurred more than US$ 162,100 in losses in 2010. This company has had serious problems in obtaining low-calorie artificial sweeteners — particularly the sweetener Neotame, which is 8,000 to 13,000 times sweeter than sugar — since the production and sale of these products is monopolized by United States companies.

The company Comercial Caribex has been affected by the inability to gain access to the United States market, where there is no tariff on lobster tails as opposed to 4.3 per cent, 5 per cent and 10 per cent tariffs in Europe, Canada and China, respectively; this translates to a loss of approximately US$ 573,100..

The lack of access to the United States market for Cuban rums, particularly the market leader, Havana Club, means that there was a sales shortfall of at least 2.6 million cases of rum, which, at the average 2010 invoice price for Havana Club International, amounts to an economic loss of approximately US$ 106,132,000.

The export company Cubaexport lost more than US$ 270,000 in the sale of over 140 tons of bulk honey, payable in euros and Swiss francs, to two buyers in Europe who mistakenly paid in dollars. The payments were frozen, which had an impact on the company since the funds were seized and have not been released; only a portion of the payment has been recovered.

Quimimport, an export company responsible for supplying fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides for use in agriculture, could purchase many of these products on the United States market if there were no embargo. During the reporting period, it was unable to import diamonic phosphate (DAP) directly from the United States owing to requirements arising from the provider's need to comply with the provisions of the embargo; for this reason, the company ultimately had to import it from other markets at an additional cost of US$ 197,600.

2.2 Adverse effects on exchanges in the fields of education, science, culture and sport

Education, culture and sport have been and continue to be severely affected by the embargo.

The United States Government's alleged relaxation of the regulations governing travel to Cuba from its territory by some groups of United States citizens, such as students, teachers, journalists and members of religious organizations, is not actually intended to promote friendly relations between the two peoples, but rather to pursue that country's political and ideological agenda for Cuba.

Education

Despite the efforts of the Cuban Government to guarantee quality education for all, the effects of the embargo can be seen in daily shortages that affect students and teachers in their learning, research and scientific work in general.

As a result of this policy, Cuba still has no access to the United States market for the purchase of school supplies and basic materials for repairing and maintaining the school network; it is forced to acquire them from distant markets at a loss of US$ 881,400.

With this money, various teaching materials could have been purchased for natural science and vocational instruction in all primary, special education and basic secondary schools. It would also have been possible to purchase over 15,000 globes, needed by primary schools, and to cover the cost of the polyvinyl chloride (PVC) laminates needed for one year's production of word builder games, needed for reading and writing instruction in primary and special education schools.

Special education is an important issue for the Cuban people. The specific purpose of the project for strengthening the Cuban school inclusion model in Santiago de Cuba, to which the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) allocated €100,000 in 2008, was to improve the educational inclusion of primary and basic secondary school students with special educational needs (physical, visual or hearing limitations or mental retardation) to the direct benefit of 310 children and adolescents with the aforementioned disabilities.

However, the embargo has made it extremely difficult to acquire touch screens, interactive blackboards, smart keyboards, printers, typewriters, recorders and other essential equipment for optimal quality and results in special education.

From April 2010 to March 2011, the education sector suffered losses totalling US$ 5,703,443 owing to the impact of the embargo on production and services, lack of access to United States technology, the cost of seeking alternative import markets and monetary and financial consequences.

The work of the University of Ciego de Ávila plant biology laboratories has been seriously hindered by the refusal of the Pharmacia LKB and Bio-Rad companies to provide maintenance for a protein purification chromatograph, a refrigerated centrifuge and other equipment. The resulting damage is valued at US$ 94,716.

Culture

During the reporting period, losses in the cultural sector amounted to US$ 14,913,300, which included income not earned for the export of goods and services, the cost of seeking alternative markets, additional freight and insurance charges and monetary and financial consequences.

The following are just a few examples:

On 3 November 2010, the Department of the Treasury informed the Centre for Cuban Studies in New York that it would not renew its licence to carry out cultural exchanges with Cuban institutions.

The company Artex S.A. has suffered losses in the sale of sound recordings, recording services and editorial rights since it cannot sell the compact discs for performances given in the United States. At a conservative estimate, its loss amounted to US$ 150,000.

The National Cultural Heritage Council has no access to the programs associated with new technologies such as Google Earth and MapInfo and ArcView software, used for the processing of maps and digital data, or to the tutorials that provide instruction in their optimal use. Neither can it acquire teaching, audiovisual and bibliographic materials or the accessories needed to equip specialized workshops and laboratories for the various forms of artistic expression.

The embargo prevents the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC) from collaborating with United States companies which offer commercial advertising in sectors such as air travel, tourism, art, culture and sports, so that the Institute has suffered losses of about US$ 220,000.

The embargo has made it impossible for Cuba's cinematographers to acquire from the United States supplies, spare parts and equipment, such as new tape and chemicals for the ICAIC Cinematographic Laboratory; accessories for cinematographic equipment; and the use of licenses, patents and trademarks such as THX, Dolby, Mac, Avid, Toons and Scenarist for post-production audiovisual processes.

Sports

Cuban sports have also suffered from the embargo. A conservative estimate of losses in this area is on the order of US$ 1,546,565.

Some 300 United States runners were unable to participate in the 2010 Marabana/Maracuba project because they were denied travel permits for Cuba; this resulted in a loss of about US$ 102,000 for the project.

On 17 February 2011, the United States Department of the Treasury refused the Sarasota Yacht Club's request to hold a sporting event, the Sarasota-Havana Regatta, in Cuba.

Cuba's acquisition of Louisville, Wilson, X Bat and Rawlings sports equipment has been restricted because it is produced by United States companies. Since the use of many of these articles is required under the official regulations of international federations, it has been necessary to purchase them from other countries at a loss of about US$ 450,000.

For the fourth year in a row, Cuba has been unable to purchase high-pressure liquid chromatography equipment, which is essential in conducting anti-doping tests. Despite the efforts of the World Anti-Doping Agency, the United States Government does not allow the company Agilent Technologies to sell this equipment.

Chapter 3. Impact of the embargo on the external sector of the economy

3.1 Impact on foreign trade

Cuba is a small developing country with an economy that is heavily dependent for its development on foreign trade, technology and capital; credit; investment; and international cooperation.

Losses have resulted primarily from the denial of access to United States markets in order to purchase goods and sell our traditional exports, such as sugar, rum, tobacco and nickel, and, above all, from our inability to export services owing to the many restrictions imposed under the embargo, including with respect to travel to Cuba by United States citizens, communications and air and sea transport.

The estimated impact of the embargo on the tobacco industry was US$ 79,900,000. This estimate is calculated as if Cuba still had rolled and leaf tobacco quotas on the United States market. Following that reasoning, the inability to export to that market cost the sector US$ 65,600,000 for rolled tobacco and US$ 5,500,000 for leaf tobacco.

Before the embargo was imposed, Cuba did not export machine-made tobacco products. It has now entered this new market and had encouraging results with the Minis, Club and Puritos brands. The demand on the United States market is approximately 5.5 billion units; access to 1 per cent of that market would have brought US$ 7.1 million into Cuba.

In light of Cuba's current capacity for sugar production and export to the world market and the difference between the price invoiced and the price under the New York Sugar No. 16 contract, which applies to United States imports under the preferential scheme, the company Cubazúcar lost over US$ 37 million during this period.

The fact that Cuban sugar cannot be traded on the New York Stock Exchange is an argument used by traders who argue that they cannot use the Stock Exchange as an additional or emergency market because there are no end buyers and that they must therefore sell our sugar at a greater discount as an incentive to end buyers; this places our product at a disadvantage relative to sugar from elsewhere in our region.

The members of the Grupo de Administración Empresarial (GAE) suffered a total loss of US$ 264,064,000. The tourism service industry suffered the most owing to the absence of United States tourists.

The Technoimport company lost a total of US$ 42 million: US$ 3.06 million because, lacking access to the United States market, it had to transport over 3,000 containers from ports in Asia and Europe; over US$ 23 million in additional costs arising from the inability to use the dollar in its transactions; and US$ 14.5 million owing to the need to use intermediaries.

Cimex S.A. lost US$ 63,976,200. Its Purchasing, Storage and Distribution Division required a major capital outlay owing primarily to the additional cost of purchases made through intermediaries (US$ 22,700,000) and to increased inventory volume, currency exchange and freight and storage costs (US$ 9,730,000).

3.2 Impact on foreign investment

This analysis is based primarily on the World Investment Report, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) report, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009*, published in May 2010.

The estimate of the investment that Cuba would have received if there were no embargo is based on an analysis of the foreign direct investment that the selected countries received from the United States and on the percentage of total inflows to these countries in 2009 that this investment represents.

These countries were selected because their economies are comparable to Cuba's and because they have similar geographic, social and cultural characteristics, particularly with respect to the sectors to which the investment was allocated.

The following table shows the total foreign investment and the United States investment received by the selected countries in 2009.

Countries	*Total foreign direct investment flows in millions of dollars*	*Foreign direct investment flows from the United States in millions of dollars*	*Percentage of total investment represented by United States investment*
Costa Rica	1 322.6	747	56.5
Honduras	550.4	281	51
Dominican Republic	2 158.1	589	27.3
Colombia	7 201.2	2 314	32.1
Nicaragua	434.2	60	13.8
El Salvador	430.6	74	17.2

Source: Calculated on the basis of data taken from *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009*, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

An analysis of this data suggests that Cuba could have received FDI from the United States in an amount equivalent, on average and in absolute terms, to US$ 600.5 million.

Even though foreign investment in Cuba is viewed as complementary to national efforts and is based on a highly selective approach targeting projects of national interest with significant economic and social impact, the embargo has serious consequences for Cuba, including:

- Lack of access to the advanced technologies of United States companies;
- Lack of access to the United States market for the exports of joint ventures in Cuba;
- Lack of access to funding from United States banks for the development of foreign direct investment projects in Cuba; and
- Application of sanctions and pressure on foreign businesses by the United States Government, which has a deterrent effect on potential investors and hampers the establishment of joint ventures in Cuba.

Petroleum, tourism and biotechnology are the sectors most affected by the restrictions that the embargo places on foreign investment. For example, shares in Sherritt International Corporation, which has investments in Cuba's petroleum and mining sectors, have lost value owing to the lack of access to the United States market and United States capital. Since 30 June 1995, in application of the Helms-Burton Act, the three companies that trade with Cuba (Moa Nickel S.A., Cobalt Refinery Company, Inc. and Sherritt's International Cobalt Company, Inc.) have been blacklisted by the United States blacklist on the grounds that they are major foreign investors in Cuba.

Tourism continues to be one of the main driving forces of the Cuban economy. In 2010, 2,531,745 people visited Cuba, 4.2 per cent more than in 2009. It is therefore necessary to continue developing the tourist industry by creating opportunities for foreign investors to invest in infrastructure for hotels and other accommodations and in the construction of golf courses, among other things.

Owing to embargo-related prohibitions, United States companies in the hotel business that have invested heavily in the Caribbean region cannot access these opportunities in Cuba. Cuba also cannot take advantage of the United States hotel chains that do business in the Caribbean region, nearly all of which rank among the top 10 hotel chains in the world; i.e., Sheraton, Hilton, Marriot and Holiday Inn.

In the agri-food sector, without the embargo restrictions it would be possible for the two countries to establish joint ventures in order to expand the production of beans, soybeans, beef and pork, among other food items, as well as activities related to warehousing logistics, processing, post-harvest processing and distribution, which in turn would replace current imports from the United States, revive the food industry and generate new sources of employment, among other benefits.

Furthermore, Cuba's biotechnology industry, which has achieved the standard of a developing country, cannot make strategic alliances with leading United States companies in that sector in order to conduct research and development projects.

3.3 Impact on the financial and banking sector

During the reporting period, the United States Government's policy of hostility to, persecution of and attacks on Cuba's banking and financial sector worsened. Harassment of foreign financial and banking institutions aimed at restricting funds transfers to and from Cuban banks increased, allegedly because these banks could not do business with Cuba, which was on the list of State sponsors of terrorism, even though most of the transfers were made in euros or other currencies.

It is not always possible to quantify this impact but to give just one example, the rejected payments from just one of our commercial banks in euros alone, leaving other currencies aside, were on the order of € 481,000.

The primary effects on the banking and financial system were:

- Transactions became more expensive as a result of the double foreign exchange charges that are necessary because creditors require payment in dollars; this results in losses owing to exchange rate fluctuations or to the payment of foreign institutions' insurance charges designed to mitigate the risk of these fluctuations, which are quite high
- Closing of accounts in many foreign banks

- Correspondent banks' refusal to confirm or advise letters of credit
- Some foreign banks' refusal to make payments to Cuban banking institutions and
- The need to maintain minimum balances in Cuban accounts abroad, given the embargo-related risks.

During the reporting period, more than 20 banks decided to close their accounts with Cuban banks, through which Cuba's banking institutions were making payments.

The following are specific examples of the impact on Cuban banks in 2010 and 2011:

- A European bank returned funds to a Cuban banking institution, claiming that European law did not allow it to accept payments from Cuba. Another European banking institution refused payment on a confirmed letter of credit through a Cuban bank, claiming that it did not accept payments from Cuba, while yet another institution, also European, refused without explanation to advise a letter of credit sent through a different European bank.
- A Latin American bank sent a message concerning two payments made with letters of credit issued by a Cuban bank, stating that its risk committee had decided that for an indefinite time period, as from May 2010, it would cease to conduct bilateral transactions until further notice.
- A Cuban bank's correspondent relations with a European bank were terminated and its accounts with that bank were closed at the latter's initiative. A similar situation had previously arisen with other Cuban banks. This termination of correspondent relations eliminated the only remaining option for sending family remittances from that European country by raising the cost of each payment order since it must be sent through a third bank.
- A Cuban bank had to find a replacement for a Latin American insurance company involved in a major investment project in Cuba when over 40 per cent of its shares were bought by a United States insurance company.

3.4 Section 211 of the 1999 United States Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and further patent- and trademark-related violations

The risks and potential losses resulting in 2009 from the attempts of some plaintiffs in cases brought against the Cuban Government to appropriate Cuban trademarks and patents as a form of compensation on the basis of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, adopted in 2002 and extended until 2014, persisted in 2010 and in 2011 to date.

These attempts to appropriate these intangible assets associated with intellectual property are not new. It is generally known that the Bacardi company has attempted to take over the Havana Club rum trademark on the basis of legislation that the company itself had initiated in the United States: Section 211 of the 1998 United States Omnibus Appropriations Act on the registration, renewal or recognition in the United States of trademarks and brands associated with assets that have been nationalized in Cuba. This Section prevents the Cuban owners of these trademarks or their successors, including foreign companies in Cuba, from benefiting, in United States territory, from the recognition and enjoyment of their rights with respect to trademarks or brands that are registered and protected in Cuba.

In February 2011, it will be nine years since the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body found that Section 211 violated the national treatment and most-favoured-nation obligations assumed by the United States under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and requested that the United States Government should bring that measure, which had been ruled incompatible, into conformity with its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

In the next step in the pseudo-legal saga of the Havana Club trademark in the United States, the Washington Court of Appeals ruled, by two judges in favour and one against, that the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control had acted correctly in refusing to allow a Cuban-French joint venture to renew registration of the Havana Club trademark in the United States.

By contrast, in February 2011, the Supreme Court of Spain confirmed ownership of the Havana Club trademark in Spain by the joint venture established by the French company Pernod Ricard and the Cuban company Corporación Cuba Ron. This is the third time that the Spanish courts have rejected Bacardi's challenge to the rights over the trademark of the company, which has its headquarters in Cuba, since Bacardi brought proceedings before he courts of Madrid in 1999 with a view to recognition as the owner of the trademark in Spain and cancellation of the registration in the name of its competitor, Havana Club Holding.

Cuba's ownership of the trademark had previously been recognized by a lower court in 2005, and again on appeal by the Provincial Court of Madrid in 2007.

The attempt to appropriate the trademarks and patents of Cuban companies undermines the international agreements on trademarks and patents and has serious implications for international trade.

In accordance with international law, the United States is responsible for ensuring that its laws, regulations and legal and administrative procedures are consistent with its obligations under the WTO agreements and international treaties on trademarks and patents to which it is a State party.

Chapter 4. Effects of the embargo on other sectors of the Cuban economy

The sugar industry reported lost income of US$ 62,100,500 between April 2010 and March 2011.

Owing to the impossibility of importing the inputs required to operate sugar refineries, the 2010-2011 harvest was affected by the late entry into production of 13 refineries, leading to a production shortfall of 168,100 tons of raw sugar, which in turn caused a loss of US$ 57.7 million. Given its lack of access to the United States market, Cuba is forced to import inputs from distant markets, with a consequent increase in prices and delay in delivery of goods.

The Cuban tourism industry has suffered severe effects from the embargo, amounting to US$ 1,713 million.

Based on studies conducted by United States tourism companies, it is estimated that the Cuban tourism industry lost out on some US$ 1,668 million in 2010 owing to the ban on travel to Cuba.

Had there been no embargo, the Marlin, Marinas y Náuticas business group would have earned approximately US$ 10 million more. With 650 berths capable of handling some 179,000 ship days per year at a 75-per-cent occupancy rate, dockage fees alone for ships averaging 40 feet in length would represent some US$ 5 million, to which could be added fees for water and electricity, security, purser, fuel, provisioning, yacht repair and other services.

The Cuban company Havanatur, based in Canada, is obliged to pay 1.6 per cent more than the rate paid by other tour operators in Canada for processing of credit card transactions, causing losses of over US$ 1 million. Similarly, the ITH Group, which supplies the tourism industry, suffered losses on the order of US$ 26.7 million during the period from April 2010 to March 2011 owing to the price differential for goods purchased in third countries, high interest costs for commercial credit, currency exchange rate fluctuations and freight charges.

The Cuban civil aviation sector continues to be affected by the United States embargo. Between May 2010 and April 2011, the effects are estimated at US$ 276,506,681 owing, among other causes, to the use of less efficient aircraft, additional expenditure for chartering aircraft, higher costs for fuel, spare parts and other inputs, and lost earnings from passengers who could not be carried. Against this backdrop, and as a result of the decision by Shell España to end contractual relations, the Cubana de Aviación company was obligated to find a new supplier to fuel its aircraft outside Cuba, causing a loss of around US$ 271,840 to the Cuban airline.

At the same time, Cubana de Aviación attempted to resume online sales in 2010 but faced major difficulty owing to the impossibility of using the United States dollar for online transactions and banks' reluctance to use other currencies, which had a detrimental effect on the airline's market positioning.

The prohibition on access to the United States market to purchase spare parts for refuelling trucks at the Havana and Varadero airports; international refuelling services; and aviation fuel and parts for Cuban aircraft led to additional costs of US$ 5,007,000 in 2010.

If commercial flights to and from Canada could travel through United States airspace, the flight time would be reduced, as would the environmental and economic impact, and Cubana de Aviación would realize significant savings of over US$ 2,026,000.

In June 2010, the company Sky Chefs, located in Argentina, which had provided services to Cubana de Aviación since 2001, abruptly suspended catering services for flights on instructions from its head office in Frankfurt, Germany, invoking compliance with the Helms-Burton Act. Another European company, Gate Gourmet, which was approached as an alternative, also rejected the proposal, stating that its head office in Zurich, Switzerland, had not approved the contract.

The information and communications technology sector has been hit hard by the embargo. Total losses during the period under review are calculated at US$ 7,396,394.

On 6 October 2010, the social network Twitter acknowledged full responsibility for blocking messages sent by cellphone from Cuba to its platform. Similarly, in April 2011 it acknowledged that access to certain Twitter tools was being restricted in Cuba on the grounds that they were being accessed from a country that is under a ban.

In October 2010, a team from the Universidad Central de Las Villas, which had been awarded an honourable mention in the International Collegiate Programming Contest of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM-ICPC) hosted by China and sponsored by the United States company IBM, was unable to receive the prize owing to the embargo regulations.

EcoSol Electric, which markets technology for the use of renewable sources of energy, has also suffered the impact of the embargo owing to the high concentration of production within the United States-based Eaton Group, which has assembled the product line of single-phase and three-phase systems used in the electrical grid. EcoSol has been forced to go to third countries, thereby losing out on the value of direct distribution and access to spare parts and training, and incurring higher costs.

As of February 2011, the financial firm Syniverse stopped making payments to the Cuban telecommunications company ETECSA for cellphone roaming charges on the grounds that its bank could not conduct transactions with Cuba, which led to the non-collection of US$ 2.6 million and other difficulties.

The damage and losses caused to light industry by the United States embargo against Cuba amounted to US$ 9,760,200 and 655,900 Cuban pesos during the period under review. Production by light industry has a direct impact on basic consumer needs and the population's standard of living.

The losses of US$ 1,494,900 suffered by the Textile Union could have gone to produce 88,200 layettes for newborns, representing approximately 52 per cent of the 2011 production plan.

Had the Printing Union had the US$ 1,649,700 it lost as a result of the embargo, it could have produced 9.2 million high-quality school workbooks, representing approximately 21 per cent of Cuba's requirements for the current school year.

With the loss of production worth US$ 1,368,600 suffered by the Suchel Union, which produces soap, 872.8 tons of Liz bath soap — the equivalent of 6.9 million bars of soap — could have been produced.

The paint company Pinturas Vitral, had it had access to the US$ 2,285,800 in financial resources that it lost as a result of the embargo during the period, could have produced enough water-based and enamel paint to cover 24,000 seventy-square-metre rooms.

The transport sector has not been spared the direct and extraterritorial effects of the United States embargo, with losses totalling US$ 244,583,000 in one year, mainly as a result of lost potential revenue for ground transportation and port services owing to the ban on travel by United States citizens to Cuba and on stays in Cuban ports by merchant vessels and cruise ships.

The country risk premium imposed by the North American embargo led to a price increase of 40 to 50 per cent and higher borrowing costs, representing additional expenditure of US$ 39 million in procurement by the transport sector.

The blacklisting of ships that enter Cuba continues to have an impact on earnings from the contracting of Cuban crews, including on vessels of third countries; from ship repairs; and from cruise ship operations in the form of taxes paid by crew members and passengers and operating costs paid by the cruise lines themselves.

The embargo is having an impact on the recruitment of skilled manpower for the maritime industry. Cuba loses US$ 10,188,000 each year because Cuban crews cannot be hired on yachts, cruise ships and merchant vessels owing to the embargo.

The largest cruise lines in the world, Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Star Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, MSC Cruises and Costa, have United States capital investment. Although all of them ply the Caribbean — Cuba's closest market — the embargo prevents them from hiring Cuban crew members because their ships dock at ports in the United States and Puerto Rico. Shipping lines from third countries, such as Barclay, CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd, are also unable to hire Cuban crew because they have ships that dock at United States ports.

Lost revenue for exports of goods and services for ship repairs during the period includes the cancellation of repairs to the ship *Four Moon* at a Cuban shipyard, valued at 1,188,000 convertible Cuban pesos.

The economic, financial and commercial impact of the United States embargo on the steelworking industry was even greater than in the previous year, totalling US$ 106,226,500. Most notably, US$ 47,225,058 of that total resulted from higher costs for imports, US$ 18,184,000 was owing to the lack of access to technology from the United States, US$ 13,668,000 was for additional inventory costs and US$ 8,918,939 was for increased freight costs.

The GBK capital goods manufacturing group, which produces frames, plants, metal profiles and containers, and furnishings and equipment for various industries, lost potential revenue of US$ 835,440 during the year that could have been used to purchase 710 tons of rolled steel for various industrial and household uses or 178,000 semi-finished grindstones for the production of abrasives, an essential input for the metalworking industry.

The GBC consumer goods manufacturing group produced KB-4 laminar flow cabinets, mechanical bicycles, wheelchairs, autoclaves, gas extraction hoods, fans, stoves, household refrigerators, moulds and dies, heating counters for restaurants, and bathroom and construction fittings worth US$ 27,775,980. Had it had access to lower-cost raw materials and other components on the United States market, the same production quantities would have cost US$ 22,307,380 in total, for a savings of US$ 5,468,600. With those savings, it could have produced twice as many household refrigerators — 60,000 instead of 30,000 — and thus benefited the same number of families.

The bans and restrictions under the United States embargo continued to have a serious impact on housing construction and repair programmes. The potential revenue lost by this sector between April 2010 and March 2011 is calculated at US$ 22,547,634.

Considering the average unit cost of the activities involved in housing construction and repair, it is calculated that the total impact made it necessary to forgo one of the following:

- 16,400 units of housing repairs at an average cost of US$ 1,375.
- 27,330 units of housing maintenance at an average cost of US$ 825.
- 1,132 new type I houses at an average cost of US$ 7,200.
- 1,466 new type III houses at a unit cost of US$ 5,049.

Basic industry also suffered substantial losses totalling over US$ 82.6 million, particularly owing to the impossibility of exporting Cuban nickel to the United States and having access to supplies and technology from that country.

The United States, which in 2010 imported some 144,000 tons of primary nickel, mainly from Canada, the Russian Federation, Norway and Australia, is the natural market for Cuban nickel. Given its geographic proximity, Cuba could have exported over 30,000 tons of nickel to the United States annually, with a value of over US$ 654 million at the average price of nickel on the international market in 2010.

Similarly, the United States continues to be one of the largest consumers of cobalt in the world and imported approximately 11,000 tons of the metal in 2010 from distant markets such as Norway, the Russian Federation and China, among others. Given its geographic proximity, Cuba would be an ideal supplier with the capacity to sell around 2,500 tons of cobalt annually, which at the average price in 2010 would be worth over US$ 98.5 million, a sum that Cuba is losing out on owing to the embargo regulations.

In the petroleum industry, the delivery of two balancing machines for the Nico López refinery in Havana and the Hermanos Díaz refinery in Santiago de Cuba, contracted for June 2010 and valued at €272,449.48, was halted when it was found that some of the machine components were made in the United States. It was necessary to seek alternate suppliers, which caused a nine-month delay in delivery and the concomitant economic impact.

The United States Government also put pressure on oil companies that supply goods and services or that had announced their intention to negotiate contracts with Cuba in the oil sector. The measures taken included the threat of sanctions against a number of executives and their family members. Faced with this pressure, many companies that had initially expressed an interest in doing business with Cuba withdrew from the country, resulting in economic losses.

This demonstrates that the United States embargo against Cuba is having a direct and multidimensional impact on all sectors of the Cuban economy, making it the main obstacle to Cuba's economic and social development.

Chapter 5. Opposition to the genocidal policy of the embargo against Cuba

5.1 Unprecedented opposition in the United States

Opposition to the embargo also grew significantly inside the United States itself. It is impossible to set out in only a few pages the many statements made and articles written in the past year by prominent United States legislators, civilian, military and media personalities, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions recognizing the failure of the embargo policy; supporting bills that would allow travel to Cuba by United States citizens and/or the normalizing of bilateral relations; or calling for the embargo to be lifted.

Only a small sample of the most important and representative actions or statements demanding an end to the embargo is set out below:

- On 20 April 2010, the United States magazine *National Journal* published statements by Aaron Saunders, communications director for Senator Mary Landrieu (Democrat-Louisiana), in which he stressed that, "in the past [the embargo] cost us very little strategically, but here is a case where it could cost us a great deal".
- On 21 April 2010, Representative John Tanner (Democrat-Tennessee), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee of the United States Congress, stated in a hearing on Cuba that the embargo had failed to achieve its objectives and had shut United States workers, farmers and businesses out of the Cuban market. He added that "more needs to be done. It is time to expand our approach to promote United States economic interests".
- On 25 June 2010, former United States President James Carter, speaking on Radio Catalunya, requested President Barack Obama to lift the embargo against Cuba because it was counterproductive. He added that he did not approve of sanctions against the people of any country.
- On 9 July 2010, in an Internet survey of 1,475 respondents conducted by *USA Today*, 94 per cent were in favour of lifting the United States embargo against Cuba.
- On 13 July 2010, Representative William Delahunt (Democrat-Massachusetts) published an article in the *Washington Post* in which he stated that ending the embargo would help the Cuban people more than the Government.
- On 14 July 2010, Senator Byron Dorgan (Democrat-North Dakota), in a speech at a plenary session of the Senate on the bill to allow travel to Cuba, said that the embargo had been unable to achieve its objectives, asserting that it had not worked at all. The senator also felt that it was immoral to use food and medicines as weapons and stressed that it made no sense to punish the Cuban Government by restricting the rights of the American people, which is what had been done for the past 50 years, questioning the Government's authority to decide where United States citizens can and cannot travel.
- On 28 July 2010 the *Tampa Tribune* published statements by Representative Kathy Castor (Democrat-Florida) in which she asserted that the embargo was a fifty-year experiment that had not worked and added that the embargo and travel ban had made it possible for the Cuban Government to blame the United States for its failures.
- On 4 August 2010, Senator Blanche Lincoln (Democrat-Arkansas), speaking at a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on United States agricultural trade policy and the agriculture bill, referred to the easing of restrictions on trade with and travel to Cuba as an extraordinary opportunity and added that it was time to consider alternative approaches to Cuba, given that the embargo in place for nearly 50 years had not worked.

- On 19 August 2010, Representative Barbara Lee (Democrat-California) issued a statement in which she said that it was necessary to move towards ending the embargo, which had failed. She stated that it was time to end the counterproductive and unnecessary ban on travel to Cuba and the trade restrictions, and reiterated her support for bill H.R. 4645.

- On 2 September 2010, the non-governmental organization Amnesty International published a report entitled "The US embargo against Cuba: Its impact on economic and social rights", which stated that the sanctions imposed by the United States on Cuba limited access by the Cuban people to medicines and medical technologies in particular, putting the health of millions at risk. It urged Obama to lift the embargo and not to renew the sanctions imposed against Cuba under the Trading with the Enemy Act. The Secretary General of Amnesty International, Irene Khan, said that the embargo policy was immoral and failed.

- In a statement issued on 9 September 2010, Amnesty International criticized President Obama's extension of the sanctions against Cuba under the Trading with the Enemy Act. It pointed out that the policy is "ineffective and detrimental" and called on Obama to repeal the "misguided embargo that has a devastating impact on the lives of everyday Cubans".

- On 13 September 2010, the Council on Foreign Relations (www.cfr.org) held an Internet forum on its website, in which Julia Sweig, Director for Latin America Studies, called the policy on Cuba "obsolete" and stated that the Obama Administration was moving "very slowly" in the matter. She said that she believed it would be very beneficial for the United States Government to begin a new phase in its relations with Cuba.

- In September 2010, the Bloomberg agency reported that the cellphone company Nokia had requested President Obama to lift the embargo to allow it to sell its equipment in Cuba, while AT&T and Verizon had requested that the process of making direct telephone calls to and from Cuba be simplified.

- On 9 October 2010, the Cuba Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) issued a declaration at its twenty-ninth international congress condemning the embargo and supporting the elimination of unilateral United States measures against Cuba.

- From 3 to 17 November 2010, Cuba Standard conducted a poll of 1,000 Americans which showed that 47 per cent of respondents wanted the embargo against Cuba, as well as the trade restrictions and travel ban, to be lifted. Twenty-two per cent were opposed, while 31 per cent said they were unsure.

- From 9 to 13 November 2010, the Ecumenical Gathering and General Assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, the Church World Service and the Latin American Council of Churches was held in New Orleans. The Assembly adopted a resolution advocating a shift in relations between the United States and Cuba, the elimination of restrictions on Americans travelling to Cuba, the lifting of the embargo and a review of the sentences imposed on the Cuban Five anti-terrorist fighters.

- On 2 December 2010, Representative William Delahunt (Democrat-Massachusetts) stated, as reported by the EFE agency, that it was "absurd" for Congress to maintain restrictions on Cuba that were predicated on a "cold war mentality".

- On 30 March 2011, former President James Carter, speaking in a television interview during his second visit to Cuba, said he hoped that in the future, trade and travel between the two countries could develop and that the economic embargo could be completely suspended, because it punished the Cuban people. It did not affect the Government alone, but affected the Cuban people even more. He believed that the relations between the United States and Cuba must change.

  Carter also said that the majority of Cubans wished to have normal relations with the United States, and the overwhelming majority of North Americans also wished to have normal relations with Cuba. He felt that there had been some progress in the last few years because he had seen public opinion polls even inside Miami and among Cuban Americans, testifying that the younger members of that community wanted to remove the economic embargo against Cuba and wanted to have normal opportunities to travel in both directions: from the United States to Cuba and also from Cuba to the United States. That was a change.

- On 10 May 2011, the American Reverend Jesse Jackson, former presidential candidate and a leading civil rights activist in the United States, stated in an interview with Prensa Latina in Doha, Qatar, that "if we (the United States Government) have been able to talk to, understand and establish relations with China, which has an ideology different from ours, then it is an outdated idea not to do so with Cuba". He added that, "we are neighbours and need each other, we can develop bonds that could bring mutual benefit", noting that "I hope that one day, the wall that separates the United States and Cuba will fall".

5.2 International opposition

There is growing and overwhelming international community support for Cuba and opposition to the embargo.

Many voices are being raised around the world, in favour of halting this inhuman policy. During the period covered by this report, many declarations have been made demanding the immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo.

The most prominent of those are:

- At the seventeenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 30 June and 1 July 2011, a resolution was adopted reiterating the "call made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the longstanding and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba and thus enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development" and reiterating its invitation to the Government of the United States to lift its sanctions against Cuba.

- The Third Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-Cuba Ministerial Meeting held in Havana on 17 and 18 September 2010 adopted a final declaration that once again called for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Cuban people.

- During the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session in September 2010, high-level representatives from 33 countries explicitly criticized the embargo and called for it to end. The rejection of the United States embargo and the demand that it be lifted was one of the five topics raised most frequently by the Organization's Member States, demonstrating that this issue continues to cause great concern in the international community.

- The World Peace Council, at its session on 11 October 2010 held in Brussels at the seat of the European Parliament, reported that socialist and revolutionary Cuba remained under siege, under the embargo and under pressure, and the unconditional solidarity of the World Peace Council was needed to fight against the embargo and for the release of Cuba's five heroes in the United States, as stated in a report submitted by its President, Socorro Gómez of Brazil.

- The House of Representatives of Jamaica unanimously adopted a resolution on 19 October 2010 in support of the resolution sponsored by Cuba in the United Nations General Assembly opposing the United States embargo. It stated, inter alia, that the embargo was a violation of international law and was contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the norms governing international commerce and freedom of navigation, as well as constituting a transgression of the right to peace, development and security of a sovereign State and which, in its essence and its aims, continued to be an act of unilateral aggression and a permanent threat against the stability of a State Member of the United Nations.

- The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation adopted a resolution on 22 October 2010 reiterating its call to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations concerning the need to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba. The declaration stated that, by failing to end the economic embargo against Cuba, the United States of America continued to violate the norms and principles of relations between States, thus ignoring the opinion of the overwhelming majority of members of the international community as expressed in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. The Duma once again urged the parliaments of the world to call upon the United States of America to lift immediately the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

- The National Assembly of the Republic of Panama adopted resolution No. 19 on 25 October 2010, in which it deplored "once again the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba" and supported "the international community's demand for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba for the past 48 years".

- On 26 October 2010, the United Nations General Assembly, the international community's most democratic and representative body, in another historic victory for reason, truth and the Cuban people, unequivocally declared its opposition to the United States embargo for the nineteenth consecutive year with the adoption by an overwhelming majority — with 187 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions — of a near-unanimous resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". A total of 38 countries, including Cuba, as well as various international, regional and subregional organizations and groups, such as the Group of 77 and China, the Non-Aligned Movement, CARICOM, the African Union, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and associated States, and the European Union, participated in the general debate and explanations of vote against the embargo.
- On 29 October 2010, the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of El Salvador approved by a majority vote of members from all political parties, a motion welcoming and supporting the United Nations General Assembly resolution urging the United States of America to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba and stating its concern about the promulgation and application of laws and regulations such as the Helms-Burton Act which had extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other States.
- The forty-first ministerial meeting of the Latin American Energy Organization, held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 29 October 2010, unanimously adopted for the first time a condemnation of the United States embargo against Cuba, adding its voice to those worldwide who advocated the lifting of the embargo.
- The Senate of Mexico adopted a resolution in November 2010 in which it called upon "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement in Mexico the international community's vote opposing the embargo against Cuba by taking specific measures to ensure the lifting of the embargo".
- The Heads of State and Government of Latin American countries, meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 3 and 4 December 2010 at the twentieth Latin American Summit, once again approved a special communiqué on the need to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the Government of the United States of America, including the application of the Helms-Burton Act. The communiqué reiterated "the strongest rejection of the application of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act and call[ed] upon the Government of the United States of America to end its application". It also called upon "the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 19 consecutive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and end its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba".
- CARICOM reiterated on 8 December 2010 its condemnation of the economic, financial and commercial embargo by the United States against Cuba, in a declaration issued by the current Chairman of CARICOM and Prime Minister of Jamaica, Bruce Golding, on the thirty-eighth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. The declaration described the embargo policy as unjust and a major hindrance to Cuba's development and its recovery from global challenges such as the current economic crisis.

- The National Assembly of the Gambia unanimously adopted a resolution on 23 December 2010 calling on the United Nations, the Government of the United States and the international community to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States Government against Cuba. The resolution asserts, among other things, that the embargo represents a violation of international law and a flagrant, massive and systematic violation of the Cuban people's rights, and stems from a policy that is contrary to the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations. The document also describes the policy adopted by the United States Government against Cuba as a unilateral act of aggression that violates the sovereign rights of many other States owing to its extraterritorial nature.
- On 22 March 2011 in Caracas, representatives of 28 States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) condemned the unjust embargo that Washington maintains against Cuba. The Permanent Secretary of SELA, José Rivera Banuet, reiterated the System's rejection of this policy and stated that relations between the United States and Latin American and Caribbean countries could improve substantially if Obama were to end the embargo, a subject that, he said, had been touched upon by SELA member States and the international community during their deliberations.
- The Non-Aligned Movement, at its sixteenth (midterm) Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 May 2011, reiterated the call for the United States Government to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba that, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of good neighbourliness, also caused material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The Non-Aligned Movement foreign ministers renewed their insistence on strict compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for the lifting of the embargo and expressed deep concern at the strengthening of its extraterritoriality.

Conclusions

Despite intense and growing demands from the international community for the United States Government to change its policy on Cuba, lift the embargo and normalize bilateral relations, the Administration of President Obama has kept the embargo policy intact.

The embargo violates international law, is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and constitutes an offence against the right to peace, development and security of a sovereign State. It is, in its essence and its aims, a unilateral act of aggression and an ongoing threat to the stability of a country. The embargo is a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of an entire people. It also violates the constitutional rights of the people of the United States, by infringing on their freedom to travel to Cuba. It furthermore violates the sovereign rights of many other States owing to its extraterritorial nature. The direct economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo by December 2010, based on very conservative estimates at current prices, amounted to more than US$ 104 billion.

Taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against gold, the value of which was very high in 2010 and continues to rise on the international financial market, the impact on the Cuban economy would be over US$ 975 billion.

The embargo continues to be an absurd, illegal and morally unsustainable policy that has not succeeded and will not succeed in its purpose of crushing the patriotic resolve of the Cuban people to preserve its sovereignty, independence and right to self-determination; however, it leads to shortages and suffering for the people, hampers and delays Cuba's development and seriously harms the economy of Cuba. It is the main obstacle to Cuba's economic development.

The President of the United States has enough authority to ease the embargo against Cuba significantly, without need for action by Congress. The embargo is a unilateral and immoral policy that has been rejected both within the United States and by the international community. The United States must lift it unconditionally without further delay.

Cuba trusts that it can once again count on the support of the international community in its legitimate demand for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States Government.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[6 May 2011]

It is the consistent position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to oppose all kinds of sanctions, including economic, commercial and financial embargoes on sovereign States.

The unilateral and extraterritorial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba constitutes an obvious infringement upon the sovereignty of Cuba in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and represents a human rights violation as it denies the people's right to life and right to development, and thus merits the serious concern and denunciation of the United Nations and international community.

The criminal blockade policy against Cuba pursued by the United States for five decades has caused serious losses amounting to hundreds of billions of United States dollars in the economic and social fields of Cuba and also impacted many third countries while hindering the global effort to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore the unilateral and extraterritorial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba should be terminated, without delay, in conformity with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the demands of the international community.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supports the effort of the Government and people of Cuba to end the United States embargo and will continue to further expand and develop the economic and trade relations with Cuba in the future.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]
[29 June 2011]

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to support any resolution endorsing a rejection of that embargo.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to reassure the Secretary-General: the Congolese Government will support Cuba's position at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

Dominica

[Original: English]
[15 April 2011]

The Commonwealth of Dominica has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures which in any way hinder the freedom of trade and navigation in Cuba and is in full conformity with resolution 65/6.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[16 May 2011]

In its international relations, the Government of the Dominican Republic acts in accordance with the norms and principles governing cooperation and trade among nations, underpinned by the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal standards. Consequently, it refrains from enacting and/or applying laws that contravene these norms and principles.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2011]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador hereby reports that, in accordance with its standard policy of condemning the decades-long illegal embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the Government of Ecuador has not promulgated and does not have in force any law or measure that could constitute any form of economic, commercial or financial embargo against Cuba.

At the same time, it calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all unilateral measures imposed by the United States of America against the Caribbean nation, which have caused it serious economic and social damage and have subjected its people to a large-scale humanitarian crisis.

By consistently supporting the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on this issue, Ecuador has made manifest its position that the extraterritorial application of unilateral measures against another country — such as the measures contained in the United States Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the 1996 Helms-Burton Act — is completely unacceptable. Moreover, Ecuador had the honour of presiding over the General Assembly meeting at which resolution 65/6 was adopted.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[23 May 2011]

The Arab Republic of Egypt has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 65/6, in line with its consistent view that unilateral sanctions imposed outside the United Nations framework are not a course of action that Egypt can condone.

The embargo imposed against Cuba constitutes a clear violation of the principles of unilateralism and is in breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Moreover, it has detrimental repercussions on the vital sectors of the Cuban economy, including the financial, banking, trade, investment and tourism sectors, as well as on health, nutrition, water quality, education and culture.

The embargo has an extended effect on companies and citizens from third countries. It thus violates the sovereign rights of many other countries. Egypt is deeply concerned over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo which is an added argument in favour of the prompt elimination of those unjustified sanctions.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[2 June 2011]

The Republic of El Salvador, which has always been committed to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and fully aware of the need to eliminate the unilateral implementation of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade, reaffirms its support for ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

It should be noted that laws with extraterritorial application continue to harm the legitimate interests of entities or persons under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cuba and the freedom of trade and navigation.

The Republic of El Salvador wishes to express its concern at the ongoing impacts on the health system of the island and the food security of the Cuban population, owing to difficulties in acquiring medicines, reagents, spare parts for medical equipment and instruments, food and other items; which forces the Cuban State to purchase those items on distant markets and on many occasions through intermediaries, which causes a significant diversion of financial resources that could be used in other areas of development.

Reiterating its support for the Latin American and Caribbean consensus and the solidarity of the majority of United Nations Member States in their endorsement of General Assembly resolution 65/6, the Republic of El Salvador calls for the elimination of these measures against the Republic of Cuba and reports, in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution, that it has never promulgated or applied laws or measures the extraterritorial effects of which would affect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba and its citizens.

Equatorial Guinea

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2011]

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea once more voices its concern over the ongoing economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States, because it considers that it jeopardizes the well-being of its Cuban brothers.

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea joins the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations to call for the lifting of the embargo.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea welcomes in advance whatever appropriate measures and machinery the United Nations Secretary-General will institute in application of resolution 65/6, in compliance with the provisions of the Charter, so that the embargo can be lifted as soon as possible in order to restore Cuba's legitimate rights and permit the sustainable development of its people.

Eritrea

[Original: English]
[2 June 2011]

The Government of the State of Eritrea has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Eritrea is strongly opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which is inconsistent with the principles of international law.

Eritrea joins other States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws or measures, which are having adverse effects on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]
[15 June 2011]

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba as a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States and of non-interference in each others domestic affairs. In addition, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia therefore wishes to see the embargo lifted in order for the people and Government of Cuba to enjoy their sovereignty in accordance with the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia believes that constructive dialogue is necessary to foster mutual trust and understanding among the nations of the world.

European Union

[Original: English]
[23 May 2011]

The European Union believes that the United States trade policy towards Cuba is fundamentally a bilateral issue. Notwithstanding, the European Union and its member States have been clearly expressing their opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

One should underline the fact that, in November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation, which prohibits compliance with that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union/United States Summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States Administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind; and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection. The European Union continues to urge the United States to implement its side of the 18 May 1998 Understanding.

Fiji

[Original: English]
[23 June 2011]

The Permanent Mission of Fiji reaffirms its Government's support for resolution 65/6. The Government of Fiji reiterates its position that all States should refrain from imposing economic sanctions of the nature referred to in the resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Fiji has not taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Fiji. On the contrary, Fiji is intent on developing cooperative relations with all countries and in this regard fully supports the call for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

Gabon

[Original: French]
[14 June 2011]

On 26 October 2010, following the example of the majority of United Nations Member States, Gabon voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 65/6, on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Consistent with its foreign policy, Gabon remains deeply attached to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to multilateralism in international relations and consequently to the central role of the United Nations as the only intergovernmental organization that is universal and extremely representative of the peoples of the world.

To that end, Gabon still believes that it is essential and vital to continue efforts for an enhanced implementation of resolution 65/6 which aims for the complete lifting of the economic and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Gambia

[Original: English]
[18 April 2011]

The Gambia has not promulgated or applied any laws, measures or acts which have extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other Member States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

We continue to be opposed to the enactment or application of such laws or measures against Cuba which impede the free and smooth flow of international trade and navigation. We also believe that the numerous General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the decades-old embargo against Cuba should be respected by all. The embargo must come to an end.

As a responsible member of the international community, the Gambia therefore joins other Member States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws, measures or policies as they are contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

Georgia reaffirms its support to resolution 65/6 and has not promulgated or applied laws or taken any measures against Cuba that would prohibit or restrict the economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Georgia.

Ghana

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

Ghana, never having supported the imposition of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America on Cuba, has not promulgated or applied laws whose extraterritorial effects could adversely affect Cuba, the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction or the freedom of trade and navigation. Ghana is convinced that the embargo is not in conformity with the obligations that Member States have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations and under international law.

Ghana views the embargo as morally wrong because to deny a sovereign State, a member of the international community, the benefits derived from external trade is indefensible. Ghana is against the embargo and any law that violates two important principles of international law: non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the right of all nations to determine their own paths towards social development. Ghana remains committed to these principles and has always supported the General Assembly resolutions which, among other things, call for an end to the embargo.

Ghana wishes to appeal to the United States Congress to reconsider its stand against Cuba and to ensure that Cuba has the right to choose its own path. As developments in the twenty-first century have shown, it is significant to invoke our collective moral authority in a renewed call to all nations to reflect a spirit of cooperation, multilateralism and interdependence in all of their international dealings without exception.

Ghana is drawing international attention to the rights of the people of Cuba to benefit from their hard work and commitment to social justice.

Cuba has sacrificed enough for more than four decades in its quest for freedom and it is time for the international community to lend its unalloyed support to that cause.

Ghana would like to urge Member States of the United Nations to desist from any policy that represents or promotes unilateralism in utter disregard for the Charter of the United Nations its core values and fundamental principles.

The ultimate responsibility for confronting and addressing the challenges we face in the twenty-first century rests with an international community which accepts the imperatives of our mutual interdependence. Wars, economic blockades in pursuit of individual interests and the violation of the sovereignty of small States should have no place in the new global relationships we are nurturing. Over the years, Cuba has demonstrated internationalism by playing host to thousands of students from

Africa, who upon completion of their courses of study in various professions are contributing to the development of their respective countries.

Grenada

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

In accordance with the principles expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, Grenada views the continued imposition of the trade and financial embargo on Cuba by the United States of America as perilous to the norms and values that govern the peaceful coexistence of States, and contradictory to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as expressed in Article 1 of the Charter.

Furthermore, Grenada is convinced that the political independence of States is a matter of sovereignty and proposes that the Cuban people should be entrusted with the task of demanding change if it is their political will to do so.

Grenada argues that the actions constituting the embargo are tantamount to a violation of the sovereign right of the Cuban people to exert control over the fate of their country, while negatively impacting the progress of human development and well-being; the latter identified as preconditions to the establishment of peaceful and friendly relations between nations according to Article 55 of the Charter.

Consequently, the Government of Grenada neither promulgates, applies nor condones laws or measures that would encroach on or undermine the sovereign rights of any State; nor any unilateral application of economic and trade measures that would restrict a State's capacity-building ability.

For over four decades, in the midst of serious economic and social challenges, Cuba has always been willing to extend a hand of friendship and solidarity to fellow developing countries around the world. Though limited in its possibilities, the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood demonstrated by the Cubans is essential to world peace and stability.

Against this backdrop, Grenada joins with the rest of the General Assembly in its call for the removal of the measures imposed on the Government and people of Cuba by the United States of America through its trade and financial embargo. As an advocate for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Grenada recognizes the sovereign equality of States, and therefore supports General Assembly resolution 65/6, calling for an immediate end to the embargo against Cuba. Grenada argues that the right of one State to determine its economic and commercial partners need not exclude the right of a second State to political independence and self-determination.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2011]

The Republic of Guatemala, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/6, wishes to report that the State of Guatemala has neither promulgated nor applied laws or any type of measure contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, or contrary to the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Therefore, Guatemala is able to state that there are no legal or regulatory hindrances to free transit or trade between Guatemala and Cuba.

Guatemala rejects any unilateral measure opposed to the principles of free international trade and law and urges those countries that continue to maintain such provisions in their domestic legal regulations to take the necessary steps to abrogate or rescind them.

Guinea

[Original: French]
[27 May 2011]

The Republic of Guinea, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/6, has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures contrary to the principles and purposes set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Guinea remains committed to its international obligations and solemnly reaffirms its strong belief in the principles of equality, the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of another State.

The Republic of Guinea rejects laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects and all other forms of coercive economic measures and on the grounds of its belief in the principles of the freedom of international trade and navigation, demands that this embargo, which continues to cause the Cuban people such suffering and so much economic, financial and social harm, should be lifted immediately and unconditionally.

Guinea-Bissau

[Original: Spanish]
[9 June 2011]

Guinea-Bissau voted in favour of resolution 65/6 on ending the embargo against Cuba. The voting results in 2010 were: 187 States in favour of ending the embargo and two in favour of maintaining it, with three abstentions. The show of unity surrounding this just demand by the Republic of Cuba could not be more convincing. The United Nations must find the means to ensure the implementation of this resolution, which is repeated year after year.

Our nation has consistently deemed the embargo imposed by the United States against the island of Cuba to be unjust, arbitrary and immoral, and has therefore voted in favour of the resolution calling for an immediate end to this genocidal measure which subjects the Antillean island to hardship. Guinea-Bissau's position will always be that of unflagging unity with Cuba's cause in the fight against the embargo.

Guyana

[Original: English]
[15 April 2011]

The Government of Guyana has consistently demonstrated its unwavering respect for an adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those stated in resolution 65/6.

To this end, Guyana has not enacted any legislation or adopted any policies or practices the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States.

Guyana has also, as a matter of principle, maintained a consistent position of firm opposition to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed against Cuba and reiterates the call for an end to this policy. Guyana encourages the process of dialogue between the United States of America and Cuba.

The Government of Guyana is in full compliance with and remains fully supportive of resolution 65/6.

Haiti

[Original: French]
[15 April 2011]

Haiti has refrained from promulgating and applying laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction as well as freedom of trade and navigation. The Republic of Haiti is thus observing all the requirements of resolution 65/6.

Holy See

[Original: English]
[9 May 2011]

The Holy See has never drawn up or applied economic, commercial or financial laws or measures against Cuba.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[16 June 2011]

Honduras, in fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, has refrained from promulgating laws and regulatory provisions that might affect its trade relations with Cuba. Honduran legislation does not contain laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 65/6.

India

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

India has consistently opposed any unilateral measure by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country. These include any attempts to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

India recalls the final documents adopted by the XIV Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006 on this subject, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[23 June 2011]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba for the past five decades has caused hardship for the people of Cuba.

The continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba violates the principles of the sovereign equality of States and of non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States.

Indonesia is committed to the creation of a better world for all, in which nations, large or small, could coexist peacefully. The achievement of such peaceful coexistence among nations requires an adherence by all nations to the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the peaceful conduct of relations among nations.

Indonesia joins other countries in calling upon the United States to heed the increasing calls to bring an end to the five-decades-old embargo and to fully adhere to the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs. The embargo hampers efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, it would not support recent efforts to create a new global economic architecture that promotes inclusiveness and sustainability.

For the past few years, Indonesia has also noted several external challenges that have further burdened the people of Cuba, namely, in 2008, the effects of the global financial and economic crisis and also natural disasters, especially Hurricane Gustav.

Since this resolution was introduced in 1994, it has received strong support from States Members of the United Nations, including Indonesia. Indonesia continues to support this resolution and calls for the immediate cessation of such an embargo.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its concern at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba, despite the annual adoption of the General Assembly resolution, calling for the lifting of and putting an end to the embargo against Cuba by the Government of the United States.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its belief that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the principles of international law governing relations among States and contradicts the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for promoting solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such measures continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and will hamper the efforts of the Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, the embargo continues to constrain the efforts of the Cuban Government and people to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote health and education, which are indispensable means for the achievement of economic and social development.

Differences and problems among countries should be resolved through peaceful means and dialogue, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for sovereignty of Member States. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, which has lasted for decades, serves no purpose other than to inflict tremendous hardship and suffering on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The embargo has seriously jeopardized the legitimate rights and interests of Cuba and other States, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation; and therefore, has to be immediately lifted as requested by all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

The adoption of the General Assembly resolutions with such a wide range of support and for so many years clearly indicates the strong objection of the international community to unilateral economic coercive measures in general, and the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba in particular. It is also a sign of increasing sympathy with the stride of the Cuban Government and people to put an end to this unlawful and inhumane embargo. Furthermore, as the international community is facing major challenges, such as the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and food crisis and thus increased poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of the embargo seems unjustifiable more than ever and deserves stronger objections at the international level.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recalls the final outcome document as adopted by the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Governments of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in July 2009 as well as other high-level outcome documents and decisions of the Non-Aligned Movement on this subject, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to put an end to this inhuman embargo against the people and Government of Cuba and protect the sovereign right of all other countries to expand trade and economic relations with Cuba.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains opposed to the application of unilateral economic and trade measures by the United States of America against other countries that blocks the flow of people, trade and finance, as well as to the extraterritorial application and effects of such national legislations on the sovereignty of other States. The sanctions are contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been experiencing economic coercive measures, shares the concern of the Cuban Government and people, and therefore emphasizes the urgent need to put an end to such measures and the full implementation of the content of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[10 May 2011]

The Government of Jamaica remains opposed to the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that would obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade and economic cooperation.

To this end and in keeping with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure that would infringe on the sovereignty of a State or its lawful national interests.

In support of this position, in October 2009 and October 2010, the House of Representatives of Jamaica approved a resolution supporting the removal of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, noting that it affects the free flow of trade not only in the region but in the hemisphere.

Consequently, the Government of Jamaica reiterates its support for General Assembly resolution 65/6 calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and urges all States that continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

Japan

[Original: English]
[28 April 2011]

The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution 65/6.

The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern, arising from the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (known as the Helms-Burton Act) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, that, if application of such legislation causes undue hardship in relation to the economic activities of the enterprises or nationals of a third party, the legislation is likely to run counter to international law regarding the extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances, and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution 65/6.

Kazakhstan

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

In its foreign policy, Kazakhstan is guided by the principles of international law and stands for the rights of nations to develop according to their own way of development.

Kazakhstan strongly condemns any unilateral acts which affect sovereignty of another State. Kazakhstan has never accepted any national regulations that infringe, impede or delay the development of foreign countries, including in their economic, commercial and financial spheres. In this regard, Kazakhstan, like the overwhelming majority of the international community, calls for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba and the cessation of all acts which are contrary concerning the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Kenya

[Original: English]
[23 June 2011]

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its objection to unilateral coercive measures, which are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The majority of the Member States of the United Nations and other organizations have called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Kenya believes in and upholds the principle of maintaining friendly relations, including commerce, among nations for the promotion of peace and security as indispensable ingredients for the social and economic advancement of all people.

Kiribati

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

The resolution holds moral and humanitarian considerations which, when adopted, will positively contribute to improving the general welfare and well-being of the people of Cuba.

Kuwait

[Original: English]
[20 April 2011]

The State of Kuwait supports the implementation of the resolution 65/6 with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Furthermore, the State of Kuwait has always voted in favour of the resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the lifting of the United States embargo imposed on Cuba.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: Russian]
[5 July 2011]

The Kyrgyz Republic adheres strictly in its foreign policy to the norms and principles of international law. The Kyrgyz Republic advocates observance of the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

In accordance with the fundamental principles of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Kyrgyz Republic is not promulgating or applying any laws or measures with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

[Original: English]
[16 May 2011]

It is unfortunate that the embargo imposed by the United States of America over the past years against Cuba, an independent and sovereign country, continues to be in effect. Such an embargo, with its extraterritorial implications, has not only hindered the progress of Cuba in its socio-economic development and caused untold suffering to its people, but has also violated the principles of international law and those of the sovereign equality of States as well as of freedom of international trade and navigation. As far as the Lao People's Democratic Republic is concerned, in adhering to and complying with all principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, it has neither promulgated nor introduced any laws and measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of resolution 65/6.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[26 May 2011]

Lebanon is committed to the decisions of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Lesotho

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

The Kingdom of Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, provide for sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is deeply concerned about the harmful effects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. In this regard, Lesotho calls upon the United States of America to lift the embargo imposed against Cuba.

Liberia

[Original: English]
[11 July 2011]

Consistent with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Liberia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

The Government has supported the vote in favour of lifting the trade restrictions on Cuba as an important step towards its reaffirmation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, which establishes inalienable freedoms and rights, the sovereign equality of all States and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In this regard, the Government of Liberia therefore supports the ending of the unilateral economic and trade embargo against Cuba and will continue to associate itself with calls for the lifting of the embargo.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]
[13 May 2011]

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 65/6. The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is furthermore of the view that legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[21 April 2011]

Lithuania neither unilaterally nor multilaterally as a Member State of the European Union applies any restrictive measures against Cuba.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[20 June 2011]

Madagascar has never promulgated laws or economic, commercial or financial measures against the Republic of Cuba and maintains its position in favour of lifting the embargo imposed against that country.

Malawi

[Original: English]
[18 May 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Malawi does not have sanctions or any embargo against the Government of Cuba. Malawi is one of those countries that continue to enjoy excellent relations with the Government of Cuba through a number of forums such as the Non-Aligned Movement and many others.

The Government of Malawi further wishes to reiterate its denunciation of such unilateral application of economic and trade sanctions against one State by another on the basis of their differences of opinion or political orientation as such sanctions only serve to perpetuate the suffering of ordinary people. In this regard, the Government of Malawi joins the rest of the international community in calling for the lifting of these sanctions on the Government of Cuba.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

Malaysia once again voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 65/6 consistent with its position on earlier resolutions related to the same subject matter. Malaysia remains fundamentally opposed to all forms of economic, commercial and financial sanctions and embargoes that contradict the norms of international law and run counter to the principles and purposes of the United Nations. Malaysia is particularly opposed to the continued unilateral application of the coercive economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Malaysia is concerned by the continued application of the unilateral embargo against Cuba, which is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and against the principles of international law. Malaysia urges States that apply or implement such unilateral measures against Cuba to cease their practices as soon as possible and to resolve their disputes amicably through dialogue and negotiation.

Malaysia also would like to emphasize that it strives to strengthen its bilateral relations with Cuba and other countries based on the principle of mutual benefit and respect. Malaysia firmly believes that relations with Cuba will be further enhanced in various spheres, particularly in the economy and trade sectors, in the absence of the unilateral embargo imposed against the latter by other States. In view of that, Malaysia reiterates its full support to the international community's efforts, as contained in resolution 65/6 and other relevant resolutions, in calling for an end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo being imposed by the United States against Cuba.

Maldives

[Original: English]
[2 June 2011]

The Republic of Maldives does not impose any sanctions against any country without an explicit mandate from the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations, or from those international organizations of which the Maldives is a member. Accordingly, the Republic of Maldives has not imposed any sanctions on Cuba nor has it enacted any laws or regulations that would contravene the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Mali

[Original: French]
[19 April 2011]

The Government of Mali fully supported General Assembly resolution 65/6 and voted in favour of it.

The Government of Mali has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures whose extraterritorial effects impinge on the sovereignty of other States. It therefore fully supports the provisions of this resolution.

Mauritania

[Original: English]
[28 July 2011]

The response of the Government of Mauritania to the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is the resolution adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Malabo from 30 June to 1 July 2011, which reads as follows:

> "We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union meeting in our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011:

"Recall our resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII) adopted by our Assembly at its 15th Ordinary Session, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2010, and in particular, the call made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba, and thus enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development;

"Reiterate our call and once again invite the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable sanctions imposed on the Republic of Cuba."

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[4 May 2011]

The Government of Mauritius has not promulgated any laws or measures aimed at imposing the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2011]

The Government of Mexico once again states its firm rejection both of the application of unilateral laws or measures imposing an economic embargo against any State Member of the United Nations, and of the use of coercive measures that have no legal basis in the Charter of the United Nations. Mexico emphasizes that this type of measure has serious humanitarian consequences that are contrary to international law and, moreover, signify the abandonment of diplomacy and dialogue as the appropriate ways of settling disputes between States.

Mexico reaffirms its traditional and principled position that any type of political, economic or military sanctions imposed on States can only emanate from a decision or recommendation formulated by the Security Council or the General Assembly. Multilateralism continues to be the best way of settling disputes and ensuring peaceful coexistence between States.

Mexico once again emphasizes that it is through the observance of international law and the rules and principles governing peaceful coexistence between nations, regardless of asymmetries or disparities, and through respectful dialogue that States are able to overcome their differences and ensure a climate of international peace.

The Mexican Government has shared with the international community its firm position against national laws which are designed to be applied extraterritorially in third countries because they run counter to international law. In keeping with that position, the Mexican State promulgated the Act on Protection of Trade and Investment against Foreign Norms which Violate International Law, which has been in force since 23 October 1996 and is designed to prohibit acts which affect trade or investment when such acts result from the extraterritorial effects of foreign laws.

The Government of Mexico once again wishes to place on record that its bilateral and multilateral relations with other States are based on general principles of international law that govern peaceful and civilized coexistence between sovereign nations in the modern world. The principles enunciated have provided a firm basis and continuity in the relations between Mexico and Cuba. Accordingly, the Government of Mexico, in a gesture full of meaning for the relations between the two countries, voted in favour of the resolution which the Government of Cuba submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for adoption for the first time in 1992, with a view to rejecting and ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States against Cuba. Since then, Mexico has reconfirmed the principles of its foreign policy and, every year for the past 19 years, has voted in favour of the resolution on this item which the Government of Cuba has submitted to the General Assembly for adoption.

The Government of Mexico has also consistently opposed Cuba's economic and political-diplomatic isolation. It has therefore firmly supported Cuba's inclusion in all regional integration machinery in order to promote economic and commercial exchange, cooperation and development.

Mexico and Cuba maintain unbreakable historical ties, sustained in a climate of renewed trust, consistently respecting the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in particular peaceful coexistence, respect for the sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, and non-interference in their internal affairs. On this basis, opportunities for cooperation and respectful dialogue have been encouraged by Mexico through bilateral dialogue and in the competent regional and international forums and mechanisms.

The relationship between Mexico and Cuba is following a constructive course, so that exchanges can be enhanced, inter alia, in political, social, economic, commercial, financial and educational areas, science and technology, migration and health, to the benefit of both peoples.

Mexico daily encourages political, economic and commercial contacts with Cuba, which are fostered by the agreements concluded by the two countries at the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Mexico-Cuba Information and Consultation Mechanism, held in December 2009, designed to enhance exchanges in the various areas covered by the bilateral relationship. Particular mention should be made of the commitments adopted at meetings held in 2008 and 2011 of the existing bilateral mechanisms, including those dealing with the areas of migration, trade and industrial development, transport, agriculture and fisheries, foreign trade, tourism, health and development cooperation; and of the formulation of an economic relations development programme including, among other components, trade missions, review of the implementation of the Bilateral Economic Complementarity Agreement, broad dissemination of the Bilateral Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments and reactivation of the Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Working Group for Economic and Industrial Collaboration, which is responsible for coordinating the bilateral economic agenda.

Mexico and Cuba have signed an economic complementarity agreement under the Montevideo Treaty of 1980, which will remain in effect indefinitely. At the meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Working Group on Cooperation and Economic Affairs held in Havana on 29 and 30 March 2011, the two countries reviewed the status of the agreement and considered the desirability of updating it in order to position it to serve as an effective driver of trade and properly reflect their export dynamics.

On 30 May 2001, Mexico and Cuba signed an investment promotion and protection agreement, unanimously adopted by the Mexican Senate on 11 December 2001. The Agreement came into force on 3 May 2002.

In the budgetary and financial spheres, the Government of Mexico has not promulgated or applied laws or unilateral measures relating to an economic or financial embargo against any country, and therefore fully complies with the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/6. It maintains relations with Cuba in accordance with the interests of the two countries.

The two countries intend to guarantee legal, safe and orderly migration through the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework of shared responsibility.

In the light of the foregoing, the Government of Mexico reiterates its firm commitment to contribute actively and decisively to the effectiveness of international law under this agenda item of the General Assembly.

Mongolia

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

In compliance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Mongolia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

It is in this context that Mongolia has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution and voted in its favour.

Montenegro

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

The Government of Montenegro has supported General Assembly resolution 65/6. Montenegro reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 65/6. Since the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, the Government of Montenegro has continued to further develop cooperation with Cuba both at the bilateral and multilateral level.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[20 April 2011]

The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its firm attachment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the cardinal principles of international law.

The Kingdom of Morocco has always favoured the development of friendly relations between the States Members of the United Nations.

Mozambique

[Original: English]
[16 May 2011]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied or contributed to the application of any of the laws or regulations mentioned in resolution 65/6. It was in this context that the Republic of Mozambique voted in favour of the aforementioned resolution and reiterates its unconditional support to its provisions, appealing to the United Nations to ensure that all Member States take the resolution into consideration.

Myanmar

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

Myanmar supports General Assembly resolution 65/6 and joins the call by the international community on the United States to bring an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar strongly believes that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interest of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation violate both the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally adopted principles of international law. Hence, Myanmar opposes all forms of economic, financial sanctions and embargoes that contradict the norms of international law.

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba adversely affects Cuba's economy, causes undue suffering and hardship to the Cuban people and negatively impinges on third parties. Myanmar also believes that these measures will not promote peace and stability in the region. In this regard, Myanmar strongly opposes the measures imposed by the United States against Cuba and joins the international community in bringing an end to these measures.

Having such a view, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has not promulgated any laws and regulations of the kind that are against the freedom of trade and international navigation.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[24 May 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Namibia upholds the principle of peaceful coexistence of nations, respects the sovereign equality of States, and believes in fair and open trade among nations. The embargo imposed on Cuba and its people by the United States is contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the regulations of the World Trade Organization.

Namibia remains concerned about the promulgation and application of all laws and measures constituting an economic, commercial or financial embargo against Cuba, especially the extraterritorial nature of such laws and measures. Since the attainment of independence, Namibia has taken steps to strengthen trade relations with Cuba. In 1991, the two countries established an Intergovernmental Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific, Trade, Educational and Cultural cooperation. Since its inception, the Commission has met biannually and it is due to meet in 2011 for its twelfth session in Windhoek.

Bilateral relations between Namibia and Cuba continue to be excellent, and thus the Government remains committed to the necessity of an immediate end of all sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We believe that the measures imposed against Cuba have serious negative implications for the overall development and well-being of the Cuban populations. Namibia strongly supports General Assembly resolution 65/6 and calls for an immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba, in conformity with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Nauru

[Original: English]
[23 May 2011]

The Government of Nauru reiterates its objection to unilateral coercive measures which are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Furthermore, Nauru has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of Nauru is committed to the decisions of General Assembly resolution 65/6 of 26 October 2010.

Nepal

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

The Government of Nepal has strictly adhered to the provision of General Assembly resolution 65/6 and has not promulgated and applied any laws and measures contrary to the resolution.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2011]

The Government of Nicaragua, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, reaffirms once more its unwavering respect for the sovereign equality of States, the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, and the freedom of international trade and navigation, set forth in various international instruments, as well as for other principles that are essential to peaceful coexistence.

It also reiterates the right of every State to choose, as it wishes, its own social, political and economic development system free from outside interference. Accordingly, we condemn and reject the implementation of these unilateral extraterritorial coercive measures.

Nicaragua reiterates once again that it has not enacted, and will not enact, any laws affecting the economic, commercial or financial rights of the fraternal people and Government of Cuba, and has not implemented any measures that might impose restrictions on trade with Cuba, since this would contravene the purposes of General Assembly resolution 65/6. Nicaraguan legislation does not acknowledge the validity of coercive extraterritorial measures and we thus condemn and reject the implementation of such measures.

Over the past year since the adoption of this resolution, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua has strengthened and will continue to strengthen further its political, economic, commercial and development cooperation relations with the people and Government of Cuba both at the bilateral level and through the various cooperation and integration mechanisms that exist in the Latin American and Caribbean region, in particular the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement and Petrocaribe.

The people and Government of Cuba have substantially increased their unrestricted assistance to the Nicaraguan people, particularly in the areas of health and education.

Nicaragua reiterates its emphatic rejection and condemnation of the continuance and tightening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America, which not only fails to contribute to the requisite climate of dialogue and cooperation which should prevail in international relations between sovereign States but also constitutes the principal obstacle to the development of this fraternal country and its attempts to maintain its major economic and social achievements.

The response of our Cuban brothers to this cruel and devastating embargo has been one of solidarity and internationalism, the sending of more doctors and educators, more cooperation in solidarity, an increase in fair trade, in a contribution to the full development of all the peoples of the world.

The Government of Nicaragua again condemns the criminal economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, reiterates its firm commitment to and full respect for the principles and norms of international law, and once again calls on the Government of the United States of

America to comply with the 19 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that express the views of the immense majority of the international community, which demands that it end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the heroic people and Government of the fraternal Republic of Cuba.

Niger

[Original: French]
[3 June 2011]

Since acceding to international sovereignty in 1960, the Republic of the Niger has consistently pursued a foreign policy focused on promoting peace and development in Africa and throughout the world.

Niger therefore remains deeply committed to respecting the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in internal affairs and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their political and economic systems.

These cardinal principles — which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, international law and a number of other relevant legal instruments dealing with cooperation among and the development of all nations are the reference points for Niger's cooperation with the rest of the world.

The Republic of the Niger and the Republic of Cuba have maintained and expanded excellent cooperative relations since 1994, the year in which the General Agreement on Cooperation between the two countries was signed. Since then several memorandums of understanding on cooperation have been adopted in such areas as training, education and health, thereby further consolidating their cooperation.

A joint committee on cooperation which meets every two years, alternately in Havana (Cuba) and Niamey (Niger) has also been established.

The Government of the Niger considers that each country and each people are entitled to define freely their own mode of development and to access the same opportunities for success through the avenues for international cooperation available to all nations.

In this regard, the Republic of Niger affirms that it has not adopted any measure or taken any action in contravention of General Assembly resolution 65/6 and reiterates its steadfast solidarity with the Republic of Cuba as that country pursues its legitimate desire for the lifting of the embargo, which is severely undermining its ability to accelerate its development.

Niger also ventures to hope that the pattern of sudden socio-political shifts that have unfolded in some parts of the world will result in an end to the embargo against Cuba by the end of 2011.

Nigeria

[Original: English]
[5 July 2011]

The Federal Government of Nigeria maintains friendly relations with all States and does not favour unilateral measures to settle political disputes. Consequently, the Federal Government reiterates its support for ending the embargo against Cuba.

Norway

[Original: English]
[5 May 2011]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of resolution 65/6.

Norway does not promulgate or apply laws and measures referred to in resolution 65/6. Norway does not apply trade or economic legislation against Cuba that restricts or discourages trade or investment to or from Cuba. On the contrary, Norway is in favour of increased cooperation with all parts of Cuban society, including commercial relations.

Norway opposed the extraterritorial extension of unilateral measures against a third country.

Oman

[Original: English]
[7 June 2011]

The Government of Oman is not applying any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 65/6, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation and reaffirmed as well the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

Pakistan is fully in observance of resolution 65/6.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[6 June 2011]

The Government of Panama and the Government of the Republic of Cuba have expressed their interest in and their commitment to continue maintaining and strengthening their ties of friendship and cooperation. In 2010, their diplomatic relations led to the signing of many agreements in a variety of fields, including combating drug trafficking, cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, cooperation in the fields of culture, education, sport, health and political consultation mechanisms.

Bilateral commercial relations between Panama and Cuba continued to grow steadily during the period from 2000 to 2010, with trade totalling US$ 13,041,420. Imports from Cuba accounted for 78.7 per cent of that amount and exports from Panama, 21.3 per cent.

Panama has historically condemned the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America, as demonstrated by Panama's support at the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2010, and its position in support of various resolutions adopted earlier by the General Assembly and in other international forums regarding the necessity of putting an end to the economic embargo.

Panama believes that the application of coercive unilateral measures conflicts with international law and undermines the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights of peoples.

Panama will continue to support all the efforts that are being made to put an end to the embargo against Cuba, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]
[26 April 2011]

Papua New Guinea reiterates its position that it has never promulgated or applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 65/6.

Papua New Guinea has consistently voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

Papua New Guinea believes that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other States and legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation, are not in conformity with obligations that Member States have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2011]

Paraguay abides by the following instruments: article 143 of its National Constitution, which stipulates that it accepts international law and conforms to the principles of self-determination of peoples, non-intervention and condemnation of any form of dictatorship, colonialism and imperialism; Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (Chapter I, Purposes and Principles), which calls for friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; and the general principles of international law, given that the extraterritorial application of domestic laws infringes on the sovereignty of other States and jeopardizes the juridical equality of States and the principle of non-intervention, also affecting freedom of international trade and navigation. In the light of those instruments, the legislation of the Republic of Paraguay does not recognize the extraterritorial application of domestic laws, a practice that infringes on the sovereignty of other States and undermines the principles of international law. Paraguay maintains a foreign policy favourable to free trade and navigation, in accordance with the relevant multilateral arrangements. It has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, as have the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and others that have called for an immediate end to the embargo.

Paraguay especially deplores the impact of the embargo on the Cuban people resulting from unilateral positive laws that affect free trade and the transparent conduct of international commerce.

Paraguay has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

In conclusion, Paraguay fully complies with General Assembly resolution 65/6 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" and has not applied measures or laws of the kind indicated in that resolution.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[19 May 2011]

No law or measure of the kind referred to in resolution 65/6 exists or is applied in Peru.

The Government of Peru is against unilateral and extraterritorial measures that seek to affect the internal political process of a particular State. Peru considers that, in accordance with the principles of international law concerning non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, due respect for the national constitutional order is of fundamental importance in international relations.

The Government of Peru is guided in this matter by past pronouncements of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action and the statements issued at the Ibero-American Summits, among others.

Finally, the Government of Peru considers that the elimination of such unilateral and extraterritorial measures is consistent with its firm and unchanging commitment to the common objectives in the areas of representative democracy, the exercise of human rights and economic freedom.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

Since 1992, Philippines has consistently voted in favour of ending the unilateral United States trade and economic embargo on Cuba at the General Assembly. It did so again at the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly in October 2010, when the Assembly voted 186 to 2, with 3 abstentions, in favour of ending the United States sanctions against Cuba.

Philippines fully supports and reiterates its commitment to adhere to General Assembly resolution 65/6, which calls for the ending of the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Philippines also reiterates that it has not imposed and does not intend to impose any laws, regulations or measures that are contrary to the implementation of resolution 65/6. Philippines and Cuba have cultural and economic ties dating as far back as the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade in the early sixteenth century. The two countries continue to cooperate and support each other's interest in multilateral forums such as the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation and the Ibero-American Summit.

Philippines and Cuba maintain normal trade relations despite the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba. Out of 212 trading partners, Cuba ranked as Philippines' 117th largest export market in 2010, with total trade valued at $3,196,267. The two countries continue to work out ways to develop trade, particularly in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, as well as explore possible cooperation in the fields of public health, disaster preparedness and weather monitoring.

Poor but deserving Filipino students are availing themselves of Cuban scholarship grants. There are currently three Filipino scholars studying in Cuba in the field of hydraulic engineering and another one in medicine. The Cuban Government is again offering scholarships for the 2011/12 academic year.

Philippines and Cuba are set to sign a memorandum of understanding on news exchange and cooperation between the Philippines New Agency and Prensa Latina of Cuba in the third or fourth quarter of 2011.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[25 May 2011]

The State of Qatar is of the view that no country should be exposed to any kind of embargo imposed by other Member States.

The State of Qatar deems that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America on Cuba is not in conformity with the obligations of Member States under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

As a law-abiding country, the State of Qatar has always refrained from taking any coercive economic or commercial measure against other Member States.

Russian Federation

[Original: English]
[9 May 2011]

The Russian Federation's position of principle in respect of this resolution is well known and immutable: we remain fully aligned with the vast majority of Member States of the international community in strongly denouncing the United States' economic and commercial embargo against Cuba and calling for the earliest possible rejection of this relic of the cold war.

The blockade against Cuba, which has endured for almost half a century, has manifestly demonstrated its inability to influence the Cuban people in their sovereign choice of a model of development. The sole consequences of the sanctions that have been imposed are the worsening living conditions of the Cuban people, the erection of artificial barriers to the growth of the country's economy and encroachments upon the rights and interests of third countries.

We hope that the decisions by the United States' administration to lift certain restrictions on visits by citizens of the United States to their relatives in Cuba and on the sending of remittances and postal orders will be followed by other actions designed to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States and to lift the embargo once and for all.

We are convinced that such action, unlike the discriminatory practice of economic "strangulation", will help ensure the success of the progressive social and economic reforms currently being implemented by the Cuban authorities.

Guided by the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the inadmissibility of any discriminatory measures or interference in the internal affairs of States, we deem it essential to vote in favour of the draft resolution calling for the blockade to be lifted.

Rwanda

[Original: English]
[29 June 2011]

Rwanda reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]
[27 June 2011]

Saint Kitts and Nevis accords high esteem to the Charter of the United Nations and other supporting provisions of international law and, in full compliance with its obligations under same, does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that restrict the free flow of international trade or that have extraterritorial effects that encroach on the sovereignty of other States, as it considers such to be in violation of the principles of the Charter.

Saint Kitts and Nevis maintains its previous stance on the resolutions and declarations that call for the removal of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

In the light of the existing cooperation and cordial relations between Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Republic of Cuba, and guided by the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Saint Kitts and Nevis joins the international community in support of the General Assembly resolution calling for the United States of America to lift the embargo, which continues to be the source of much hardship for the Cuban people and runs counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]
[26 May 2011]

Saint Lucia, in compliance with international legal obligations and with the commitment to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure, or taken any other action that would contravene the exercise of sovereignty by a Member State in its lawful interests, or obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade or economic cooperation.

The Government of Saint Lucia reiterates the consistent economic, educational, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Saint Lucia in furtherance of socio-economic advancement and sustainability.

Saint Lucia reiterates its position on the extraterritorial application of national legislation and considers it to be contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The Government of Saint Lucia has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

[Original: English]
[25 May 2011]

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strongly opposes the extraterritorial application of national legislation that demonstrates disregard for the sovereignty of States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines views such actions as contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political or economic coercion against other States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has no laws that in any way restrict the freedom of trade, navigation, economic cooperation or other commercial activity with Cuba. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enjoys very friendly relations with Cuba and continues to engage in solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba through a variety of constructive, cooperative and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has consistently and unreservedly voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its continued concern at the hardships and human suffering caused by the ongoing imposition of the embargo against Cuba, despite overwhelming international support for multiple resolutions that have called for an end to the blockade.

Samoa

[Original: English]
[19 April 2011]

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, reaffirms that it has not promulgated or applied any laws and measures that affects the sovereignty of other States.

San Marino

[Original: English]
[26 May 2011]

The Republic of San Marino has always and generally been against any imposition of any embargo and is therefore against the imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba, as a means of pressure, and because of the serious repercussions on the populations.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the implementation of resolution 65/6 with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Senegal

[Original: French]
[27 June 2011]

In accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, the Republic of Senegal associates itself with the group of Member States of that international Organization in calling for an immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

This counterproductive measure is hindering Cuba's social and economic development and placing insurmountable obstacles before its people, thereby depriving them of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Preamble to the Charter: the right to a decent life, to social progress and to better standards of life.

Senegal firmly believes in the virtues of dialogue and consultation as a means of strengthening understanding and mutual trust among the nations of the world.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

Reaffirming its fundamental commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has neither promulgated nor applied laws, regulations, measures and acts that have an extraterritorial effect or affect the sovereignty of any other United Nations Member State, as stipulated in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 65/6.

The Republic of Serbia has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the General Assembly and voted in its favour. In sharing the expressed desire of the overwhelming majority of the Member States of the United Nations, the Republic of Serbia calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Seychelles

[Original: English]
[5 May 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles fully endorses the content of resolution 65/6. The Republic of Seychelles does not have any laws and regulations having extraterritorial effects, because such laws or measures impact upon the sovereignty of other States and are thus inconsistent with international law.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Seychelles underscores the importance of trade to Small Island Developing States, and restrictions on the free flow of trade and commerce to such States would not only have wide repercussions on their ability to develop but would also adversely affect their right to development.

Sierra Leone

[Original: English]
[8 July 2011]

Consistent with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Sierra Leone has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 65/6. Sierra Leone has consistently supported the resolution and is convinced that the lifting of discriminatory trade practices and of the extraterritorial application of domestic laws would help to not only alleviate the socio-economic condition of the Cuban people, but also promote dialogue, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among States.

Solomon Islands

[Original: English]
[19 April 2011]

The Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands remains saddened to see remnants of the cold war persist to this day and age. The United States of America's economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Government and people of Cuba continues to place the children and people of Cuba in a difficult situation. Solomon Islands call for the unconditional lifting of the blockade in line with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and in the name of the people of the world.

The Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands acknowledges the spirit, resilience and generosity of the Government and the people of Cuba in educating, sheltering and clothing children from a multitude of States studying there despite the imposed hardship.

Somalia

[Original: English]
[7 July 2011]

In conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which reaffirm, inter alia, the freedom of trade and navigation, Somalia has no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 65/6.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[16 June 2011]

South Africa has repeatedly joined the majority of countries in expressing its disagreement and opposition to all aspects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and will again support the lifting of the Embargo during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

South Africa views the continued Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba as a flagrant violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

In 2010, the United Nations recorded a vote of 187 to 2 against the embargo. The vote is a clear indication that the time has come for it to be lifted. The untold suffering on the Cuban civilian population, who suffer the brunt of this injustice, needs to end.

The international community recognizes Cuba's outstanding work in the areas of health, education and biotechnology in Africa, the underdeveloped world in particular and the world in general. The embargo stifles this outstanding contribution to economic and social development and hinders the betterment of the lives of the poor.

President Jacob Zuma paid a successful state visit to Cuba in December 2010. South Africa will continue to explore ways to provide support to Cuba. To this end, South Africa has reciprocated by cancelling a total of ZAR1.1 billion debt owed by Cuba. In a further bid to provide assistance and relief, South Africa is working on donating seeds and fertilizers to Cuba. Last, in an attempt to grow trade with Cuba, South Africa is finalizing its proposals to offer a credit line to Cuba. This would be a breakthrough in relations for trade cooperation and will reaffirm South Africa's commitment and ongoing support for Cuba.

The South Africa-Cuba Joint Consultative Mechanism and the South Africa-Cuba Joint Bilateral Commission continue to be platforms for expression of our strong bilateral relations. The South African Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation will co-chair the ninth meeting of the Mechanism in 2011 together with his Cuban counterpart. In addition, the secretariat of the Commission will convene in 2011 to review progress made and to identify new areas of cooperation. In this regard, South Africa has placed priority in its skills development programmes and benefited in more than one way from the relationship with Cuba, especially in the fields of health, education, water affairs, science and technology, social development, human settlements, public works and sport and recreation.

In the multilateral sphere, South Africa and Cuba continue to cooperate within the various organizations and share complimentary views on many issues, such as the reform of the United Nations and the promotion of the Agenda of the South. The seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change hosted by South Africa will be utilized to continue working together.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

Sri Lanka does not approve of the use of unilateral economic measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Sri Lanka believes that implementation of such measures impede the rule of law and transparency of international trade and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws and measures referred to in the preamble of resolution 65/6.

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of this resolution at the United Nations General Assembly and taken the position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba needs to be ended.

Sudan

[Original: English]
[13 July 2011]

General Assembly resolution 65/6 was a very important resolution, which the Sudan fully supported. In its statement to the General Assembly, the Sudan called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The Government of the Sudan pursues a policy of full respect for international law and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Consistent with its principled stand, the Sudan opposes the imposition of sanctions on developing countries because of their devastating impact on the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development and because they constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

In that regard, the delegation of the Sudan participates every year in the debate of the General Assembly on the agenda item in question and votes, along with the majority of Member States, in favour of General Assembly resolutions prohibiting the imposition of such unilateral measures and sanctions. The Government of the

Sudan reaffirms that it does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that could, by being applied outside its own national borders, affect the sovereignty of any State. The Government of the Sudan calls for the repeal of laws that impose such measures.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Sudan opposes the economic and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has caused great damage and suffering to the Cuban people and violated their legitimate rights and interests. The embargo constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations and its lofty and noble principles.

The Sudan itself continues to suffer from the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on it by the United States since November 1997. Such unilateral sanctions are in violation of the legitimate right of the Sudan and Cuba and all developing countries and their peoples to choose their own political, economic and social systems that respond fully to their aspirations.

Since the adoption of the General Assembly resolution in question, the Government of the Sudan has placed the issue at the forefront of the multilateral system to mobilize support for the elimination of all forms of unilateral coercive economic measures on developing countries.

The Sudan participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009, and in the midterm Ministerial Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011. In its statements the Sudan called for an immediate end to the embargo against Cuba and opposed such unilateral measures. In its bilateral meeting with Cuban officials, the Sudan reiterated its commitment to enhancing bilateral relations with Cuba in all areas.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[16 June 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Suriname remains committed to the purposes and principles as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to upholding the principles of international law. In this regard, the unilateral enforcement of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Suriname therefore reiterates its call for ending this embargo.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Suriname is of the considered view that sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and other relevant norms governing international relations should be respected at all times.

Swaziland

[Original: English]
[6 June 2011]

The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to support all efforts aimed at ending the blockade against Cuba and is highly encouraged by the fact that the United Nations General Assembly has passed 17 resolutions to date since 1992 in favour of lifting the blockade.

It is therefore our fervent hope that the Cuban people will be able to rely on the support of the international community in their legitimate demand that the blockade imposed on them by the United States of America be lifted and that Cuba will enjoy all the freedoms, rights and privileges enjoyed by all sovereign nation States without any hindrance.

The Kingdom of Swaziland views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba as a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. In addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, and to the principle of good neighbourliness, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba.

The blockade has not only caused incalculable suffering to the people of Cuba but also undermines the legitimate economic interests of third countries.

The Kingdom of Swaziland opposes any extraterritorial application of unilateral measures that undermine the sovereignty of States and violate international law, freedom of trade and navigation, and the rules of the international trading system.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[26 May 2011]

Proceeding from its position of principle in respect of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, and on the basis of the right of peoples to pursue all legitimate means to protect and strengthen their economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, as enshrined in by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 65/6, which emphasizes the need for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirms the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. In the resolution, the Assembly also calls upon States to take the necessary measures to put an end as soon as possible to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba for more than three decades.

In this regard, the Syrian Arab Republic notes that economic embargo is one of the forms of illegitimate political blackmail to which the United States has resorted to bring about changes in popular regimes in certain countries, completely counter to the concept of democracy in international relations and the principle of the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The Syrian Arab Republic recalls the communiqué of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at their Conference, held in Sharm el Sheikh from 11 to 16 July 2009, in which they called upon the United States to put an end to the embargo against Cuba, which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of neighbourliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The Heads of State or Government once again urged strict compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and expressed deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and over the continuous new legislative measures geared to intensifying it.

The Syrian Arab Republic also recalls the relevant United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions regarding human rights and unilateral coercive measures, the most recent of which was Human Rights Council resolution 15/24 of 24 September 2010. That resolution expresses concern at the negative impact of such unilateral coercive measures on the realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to development, and on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation. It also condemns the continued unilateral application and enforcement by the United States of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure in an effort to reintroduce colonialism in a new guise, particularly against developing countries that are upholding fairness, justice, their self-determination, the will of their peoples and their territorial unity and integrity.

The Syrian Arab Republic also refers to the Declaration adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, held in Doha, in which the participants categorically rejected laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, and expressed grave concern over the impact of economic sanctions on the development capacity of the targeted countries. The Summit also adopted a special appeal from all the leaders of the developing countries for the immediate lifting of this embargo, given that it is causing the Cuban people enormous material losses and inflicting huge economic damage, in addition to being a unilateral measure and in contravention of the Charter, international law and the principle of good-neighbourliness.

The international community has frequently stated that it rejects the maintenance of the sanctions unilaterally imposed on Cuba and the Helms-Burton Act, which exceeds the jurisdiction of national legislation and encroaches on the sovereignty of other States that deal with Cuba. This is incompatible with the principle of the sovereign equality of States. Experience has shown that, for the most part, sanctions regimes have caused enormous material damage and major economic losses for the civilian inhabitants of the countries targeted, especially in vital sectors such as health and food. They undermine the capacities of developing countries to realize sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and they are incompatible with the principles of liberalization of commercial exchange and non-discrimination that form the cornerstone of World Trade Organization agreements.

Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against

Cuba. This would help to create a positive climate in international relations and enhance the role of international legitimacy in safeguarding the principle of the sovereign equality of States.

Tajikistan

[Original: English]
[22 June 2011]

The Government of Tajikistan reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 65/6. Tajikistan is committed to the principles of international law and supports the fundamental rights of nations to freely choose their own ways of development. Taking into account, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade, Tajikistan believes that such economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and hamper the efforts of the Government of Cuba to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Furthermore, given that the international community is facing major challenges such as the global financial and economic crisis and the resulting increase in poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of embargoes and sanctions will be more unjustifiable than ever and deserve appropriate reactions at the global level.

Such actions are in contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States. Tajikistan enjoys friendly diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba. Tajikistan will continue to undertake further measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with Cuba.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

In principle, Thailand does not support the imposition by one country of its national law on another country which, in effect, compels a third country to comply with it. In Thailand's view, such an act would be contrary to the basic principles of international law as well as the Charter of the United Nations.

Thailand has maintained no legal provisions or domestic measures of such nature.

Thailand firmly believes in, among other, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference, as well as freedom of trade and navigation. States should respect and adhere to these principles, and work together to forge closer cooperation for common security and prosperity.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

[Original: English]
[20 July 2011]

The Republic of Macedonia fully implements resolution 65/6.

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]
[2 June 2011]

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

In this regard, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 65/6 and reiterates that it has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures referred to therein.

The Government of Timor-Leste is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures and supports the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Togo

[Original: French]
[1 June 2011]

In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Togo has always strived to promote respect for the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, and for non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs. In the same way, our country unreservedly supports the principle of free trade and navigation. Such principles are enshrined in numerous international legal instruments.

Togo therefore systematically rejects the use of any unilateral coercive measures to exert pressure on States. For that reason, Togo has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures aimed at curtailing the sovereignty of other States, or the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction.

Togo has also consistently supported the actions of the Cuban Government aimed at ending the embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America.

Tonga

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

The Kingdom of Tonga adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and accepted under international law, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Thus, the Kingdom of Tonga has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 65/6. The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Therefore, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against other countries.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago continues to consistently support subregional, regional and international efforts to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Tunisia

[Original: French]
[3 June 2011]

Tunisia applies no unilateral laws or measures with extraterritorial effect.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

The Republic of Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 65/6; expresses concern at such measures that adversely affect the living standards of people and reaffirms its adherence to the principles of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Government of Turkey maintains its stance that differences and problems between States should be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

Turkmenistan

[Original: English]
[18 April 2011]

The Government of Turkmenistan supports the adoption of resolution 65/6. Turkmenistan's national legislation contains no provisions on limitation of freedom of trade and navigation.

Tuvalu

[Original: English]
[30 June 2011]

The Government of Tuvalu reiterates its position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the need to promote dialogue and to uphold the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such discriminatory trade practices continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and to hamper the efforts of the Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Tuvalu has not promulgated or applied laws and measures against Cuba that would prohibit its economic, commercial or financial relations with Cuba.

Furthermore, the Government of Tuvalu is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such restrictive trade measures and, in this respect, supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba in line with the unequivocal and continued requests of the Member States.

Uganda

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

Uganda has normal trading relations with Cuba and does not honour the embargo.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

Ukraine does not have any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

Equally, the Government of Ukraine does not accept application of measures of the kind referred to above and adheres, in its relations with other countries, to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]
[17 May 2011]

The United Arab Emirates has voted in favour of resolution 65/6 in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The United Arab Emirates emphasizes that all States must enjoy the freedom of trade and navigation in all international sea lanes. Therefore, the United Arab Emirates does not apply any economic, commercial or financial embargo on Cuba and does not allow application of these measures outside the context of international legitimacy.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]
[19 May 2011]

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania expresses once again its solidarity with the likeminded Member States to denounce the application of unilateral trade measures against Cuba, with extraterritorial effects to peoples and economies of other States. Tanzania perceives these unilateral measures as contrary to the spirit of multilateralism and against the Charter of the United Nations.

Tanzania enjoys healthy and sound relations with the peoples and Government of Cuba and cooperates in various social-economic activities, notably, capacity-building in sectors of health and education. Tanzania believes that cooperation between the two countries would flourish further if the unilaterally imposed blockades would be lifted.

Tanzania is confident that there is room for discussion between the two parties.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[13 May 2011]

The Eastern Republic of Uruguay does not recognize in its legislation the extraterritorial application of domestic laws of other States. It holds the view that, in addition to violating generally accepted principles of international law, this practice is a form of pressure that impedes, rather than promotes, dialogue. Uruguay maintains a foreign policy favourable to free trade and navigation, in accordance with the relevant multilateral arrangements.

In that context, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has repeatedly denounced the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba and its effects on the Cuban people, as a result of unilateral coercive measures that affect free trade and the transparent practice of international commerce.

Accordingly, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has neither promulgated nor applied any laws, decrees or measures of the kind referred to in United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/6.

Vanuatu

[Original: English]
[18 July 2011]

The Government of Vanuatu reiterates its objection to unilateral coercive measures, which are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Furthermore, Vanuatu has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the two countries.

The Government of Vanuatu is committed to the decisions taken by the General Assembly in resolution 65/6.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[26 May 2011]

In accordance with the constitutional principles that underpin its actions in the community of nations, namely humanism, cooperation and solidarity among peoples, staunch in its commitment to peace and guided by its unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not and will not apply unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects that violate the sovereign rights and political independence of other States, as well as the human rights of their people.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its categorical rejection of the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects because, in its opinion, they violate the norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments, and because they violate free trade and navigation and the norms of the international trading system.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has strongly supported the 19 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this subject and the declarations made in other political forums, repudiating this type of hostile action, which undermines peaceful coexistence between nations and international legality.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela again calls on the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, to end the merciless economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the fraternal people of Cuba by the United States. Such a decision would demonstrate that country's commitment to international legality and its unconditional respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The policy of confrontation promoted and implemented by the United States for more than 40 years has affected the well-being of the citizens of that Caribbean nation, whose human rights have been violated as a result of the illegal unilateral measures. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela demands that the United States comply strictly with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6 and 65/6.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its condemnation of the strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States, an action that in no way contributes to the necessary climate of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations among sovereign States in conformity with the spirit and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations and with resolution 2625 (XXV), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

The Bolivarian Government notes with concern the recent measures taken by President Barack Obama's administration, which continues to hinder the purchase of drugs for the Cuban people as shown by its refusal to allow Abbott Laboratories, among others, to acquire Sevoflurane, an inhalant drug used specifically for general anaesthesia in children. Such unilateral punitive measures also include prohibiting the sale of health care technology and equipment to Cuba. As has been noted, the United States Government, with its policies of persistent aggression, is flagrantly violating the human rights of the Cuban people, and particularly its right to health, by blocking the sale of equipment and drugs to this fraternal country.

It should also be noted that the impact of the criminal embargo policy applied by the United States for some 50 years has also been felt in the area of sports; this year, the United States Government refused to allow its team to travel to Cuba to play in the twelfth International Badminton Tournament.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela endorses the repeated declarations made by, inter alia, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Rio Group and the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit of Heads of State and Government, in repudiation of the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects, which it considers to be contrary to dialogue and cooperation as genuine expressions of multilateralism.

Noteworthy in that connection is the communiqué adopted by the Twentieth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 3 and 4 December 2010, in which the participants stated:

- "We reaffirm, in defence of free trade and transparency in international trade, that the application of unilateral coercive measures which affect the well-being of peoples and their access to and full enjoyment of the benefits of international cooperation in all areas, including education for social inclusion, and which obstruct integration processes, is unacceptable;
- "We reject in the strongest terms the application of laws and measures that are contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, and urge the Government of the United States of America to cease applying it;

- "We request the Government of the United States of America to comply with the provisions of the 19 successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and to end its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba".

Also noteworthy is the Special Declaration on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted at the twenty-first Summit of the Rio Group and the second Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development, held in Quintana Roo, Mexico, on 23 February 2010.

The Venezuelan Government therefore denounces the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, which have caused serious additional harm to the Cuban economy over the past two decades in its economic relations with third countries and with the subsidiaries of United States firms.

In this context, it should be pointed out that, at the ninth Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America and the Peoples' Trade Agreement, held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 19 April 2009, the Heads of State and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela demanded once again that the United States Government should immediately and unconditionally lift the economic embargo against Cuba, as universally urged by the international community and in particular by the peoples and Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The maintenance of these unilateral measures is contrary to the spirit of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations since their application breaches the norms and principles of international law.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is convinced that the international community must not let up in its efforts to end the practice of applying unilateral coercive measures that seek to curtail the sovereign right of States to determine, in keeping with the right of self-determination, their own political and social model consistent with the actual situation in their respective countries and the particular requirements of their people.

The Bolivarian Government considers that peoples should under no circumstances be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development.

Lastly, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela renews its firm commitment to unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law and therefore appeals again to the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 19 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[5 May 2011]

The United States policy of blockade and embargo against the Republic of Cuba over the past many decades represents a violation of international law in general as well as free trade and transport law in particular, an infringement of fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, contravening the common desire of nations to build sound and equal international relations, regardless of political system and in respect for each nation's rights to choose its own path of development.

The United Nations General Assembly has for many consecutive years adopted with an overwhelming majority resolutions demanding that the United States end its economic, trade and financial blockade and embargo policies and laws against Cuba, the most recent of which is resolution 65/6 of 2010, adopted with 187 votes in favour.

It is the view of Viet Nam that the differences between the United States and the Republic of Cuba should be solved through dialogue and negotiation, in the spirit of mutual respect, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in the other's internal affairs.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and believes that the United Nations will soon produce concrete initiatives and measures to rapidly implement the adopted resolutions in order to put an immediate end to the blockade and embargo against Cuba.

Once again, Viet Nam confirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people and resolves to do its utmost with other peace-, freedom- and justice-loving peoples in the world to help the Cuban people overcome the consequences of the above-mentioned immoral and illegal blockade and embargo policy.

Yemen

[Original: Arabic]
[6 July 2011]

For nearly 36 years, the Republic of Yemen has enjoyed outstanding diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba at all levels, including in the areas of culture, health and the economy. Yemen has consistently sought to develop and strengthen those relations by concluding several bilateral cooperation instruments and exchanging visits and delegations. In implementation of those instruments, student delegations have been sent to study in Cuba and Yemen has hosted doctors and specialists from Cuba. Accordingly, Yemen supports and calls for the lifting of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Zambia

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

The Government of the Republic of Zambia reiterates its opposition to unilateral coercive measures directed at any State Member of the United Nations in violation of the Charter of the Organization, international law and international humanitarian law. In this regard, the continued implementation of the embargo against Cuba by the United States of America violates the norms of international trade and thus has adversely affected the social economic well-being of the people of Cuba.

The embargo is clearly a major obstacle to the efforts of the Government and Cuban people to achieve all the internationally agreed targets for human development, including the Millennium Development Goals. Accordingly, the Zambian Government is once again, appealing to the Government of the United States of America to lift the embargo without conditions and to normalize political, diplomatic and trade relations with its island neighbour.

Zimbabwe

[Original: English]
[25 May 2011]

Zimbabwe notes with great concern that the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States Government against Cuba continues to be the main obstacle to the country's economic and social development. The embargo against Cuba, instead of being removed, has actually been reinforced, resulting in greater economic sanctions and persecution of Cuban business activities and financial transactions.

Zimbabwe understands only too well the negative impact of such ill conceived, illegitimate and immoral measures on the lives of ordinary people as it is also a victim of these illegal measures. The majority of States Members of the United Nations have consistently rejected the passing of national laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions which are targeted mainly against developing countries that seek to reassert their sovereignty.

Is it not ironic that the leading advocates of free trade have become at the same time champions of blockades in a vile game of double standards? The embargo has denied Cuba access to markets, development credits granted by international financial institutions, technology and has further restricted freedom of navigation, trade and remittances to beneficiaries in that country.

The resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba has enjoyed overwhelming support over the years and it is now time for the United States Government to take bold and positive steps to open up to the people of Cuba and restore the confidence of millions of people around the world in the United Nations system of dispute settlement mechanisms and rekindle that hope that was sparked by the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations several decades ago.

Zimbabwe therefore joins other countries in urging the United States of America to dismantle its ruinous embargo against Cuba and calls upon the Cuban people to be left alone to pursue their own economic and social destiny.

III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English]
[30 June 2011]

Cuba's recent economic performance

Cuba's economic performance deteriorated significantly in 2009 and recovered only partially in 2010. GDP grew by only 1.4 per cent in 2009 and by 2.1 per cent in 2010. Private consumption grew by 0.9 per cent in 2009 and by 1.5 per cent in 2010, while public consumption increased by 1.7 per cent and by 4.5 per cent, respectively. Extreme scarcity of foreign exchange resulted in total imports falling by 11.9 per cent in 2009 and by 3.3 per cent in 2010, while exports fell by 3.8 per cent in 2009 and grew by 12.8 per cent in 2010, slightly reducing Cuba's external constraint in that year. Given Cuba's foreign currency restrictions, high international food prices in 2008 and again in 2010 increased the food bill and crowded out other imported goods, especially inputs for productive sectors. Reduced imports affected gross fixed investment, which fell by 23 per cent in 2009 and remained virtually stagnant in 2010, growing by only 0.3 per cent.

Against this backdrop, the Government has decided to gradually implement a series of economic policy changes focusing on efforts to improve productivity by expanding the role of markets and private enterprise, promoting decentralization and enhancing accountability, while retaining State ownership of large enterprises. More specific changes are planned to be progressively implanted over the medium term, including (a) labour reform that involves reassigning workers within the public sector, authorizing private employment and increasing public revenue through taxation of private-sector activity; (b) increasing non-State participation, for example by cooperatives and joint ventures, in agro-industry, tourism and housing, while granting greater autonomy to State enterprises; (c) eliminating subsidies for State firms while allowing them, within limits, to fix prices; and (d) increasing the flexibility of planning and control mechanisms by decentralizing investment decisions.

The effects of the United States embargo

The embargo imposed by the Government of the United States on Cuba does not allow for exports or imports — with the exception of certain foodstuffs under emergency conditions — between the two countries. It prohibits the use of the United States dollar for international transactions and Cuban enterprises or individuals from holding accounts in United States dollars. United States banks and international financial institutions are prohibited from providing credit. Subsidiaries of United States companies or enterprises that have capital in dollars cannot trade with Cuba, and ships transporting Cuban goods face harsh restrictions. Limits also exist on United States citizens sending remittances and on travel. This embargo has been in place for almost five decades and has adversely affected the normal functioning of the Cuban economy and the livelihoods of Cuban citizens in general.

According to estimates by the Cuban authorities, the accumulated direct damages of the embargo amount to more than $90 billion. Over the long run, the embargo has had a major impact on the country's economy and its population. It has affected both the growth prospects and daily welfare of Cuban citizens. Cuba's long-term growth has been affected by its shrinking investment potential. The embargo has blocked imports of machinery and equipment, thereby affecting productive processes in numerous sectors of economic activity. At the same time, it has raised major obstacles to Cuba's access to key export and financial markets. The resulting impact on Cuba's long-term economic growth has been twofold. On the one hand, the embargo has limited the country's access to imported capital goods, thereby reducing its investment ratio and, by extension, its rate of potential long-term growth. On the other hand, by limiting its foreign trade, foreign investment and other forms of capital inflows, the embargo has made the balance of payments constraint on Cuba's long-term economic growth more binding.

The embargo has also severely affected the day-to-day welfare of Cuban citizens. Cuba must import medicine, medical equipment and health-enhancing products from enterprises that do not have United States capital in distant countries, which substantially raises transaction and shipping costs. This also applies to the agricultural sector, since the embargo has increased the costs of buying such inputs as fertilizers and seeds, thereby making it more difficult to produce food. Cuban enterprises cannot import from the United States any materials or equipment necessary for the construction of hospitals, schools, housing units and roads. Given the uncertainty introduced by the embargo, Cuba has had to maintain large inventories, thus incurring additional costs. All of these factors have exerted major costs on its population.

In addition to the traditional effects of the embargo on economic activities in Cuba, the embargo is also likely to make the current reform process more difficult. Changes are expected to reduce the State payroll by more than 1 million workers over the next three years, and a gradual elimination of the rationing system has been proposed. As at 30 April 2011, more than 300,000 people were already participating in the private sector, of which more than 200,000 people had received new authorizations granted since October 2010. Many of them, however, do not come from the public sector but were, most likely, previously employed in Cuba's large informal or black markets. Private sector growth is particularly significant in the sale of food and in construction, after the Government liberalized the sale of construction materials in local currency. Changed economic policies are resulting in greater access to credit for agriculture, which should provide working capital and funds for investment in this sector and help to increase the food supply. Nevertheless, continuing lack of access to imported inputs owing to foreign exchange restrictions will impose serious limits on this expansion. More than half a million workers will have to be reassigned from the public to the private sector this year. However, the impetus that the incipient private sector would require to generate this amount of employment will be blocked in the absence of sufficient foreign exchange.

Remittances constitute an important source of foreign exchange and could be a source of growth for the private sector in Cuba. Although they have been somewhat relaxed by the current United States administration, tightly-enforced restrictions continue to impose serious limitations on the potential contribution of remittances to the domestic economy. It is estimated that they increased by 16.2 per cent in 2010, partly as a result of the relaxation of restrictions imposed by the United States administration. However, the overall value of remittances to Cuba, which are equivalent to less than 4 per cent of its GDP, is significantly lower than in other countries of Central America and the Caribbean with similar or smaller proportions of their population living abroad. Non-family remittances are still limited by the United States administration to a maximum of $2,000 per year, and only religious organizations and Cuban-Americans are allowed to receive or send unlimited remittances.

Access to international financing is particularly crucial during periods of profound economic restructuring, as the recent examples of both developing and developed countries demonstrate. However, not having access to the funds of international financial institutions, which is another result of the embargo, limits the possibility of pursuing this process of economic change successfully and increases the social and economic costs for Cuba's population at large.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]
[13 June 2011]

Overall situation: effects of the embargo on food security and on agriculture, fisheries and the food industry

The main changes since the previous reporting period can be summarized as follows:

(a) Cereal production in 2010 is estimated at 779,000 tons, about 10 per cent below the 2009 output, owing mainly to the reduction of the 2010 rice paddy crop. However, total cereal production remains close to the average of the previous five years;

(b) Paddy production in 2010 is officially estimated to have amounted to 454,400 tons, 19 per cent below the previous year's harvest. The decline was attributable mainly to prolonged rainfall deficits early in the season. However, the limited availability of basic inputs and agricultural machinery, including drying and milling equipment, also contributed to the low seasonal outcome. In contrast, production of maize in 2010 is estimated at 325,000 tonnes, an increase of 6.6 per cent from the previous season. Imported volumes of cereals have remained steady in recent years at around 2 million tons and in 2010-2011 are expected to cover three quarters of the country's domestic consumption requirements.

The main effects of the embargo on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and the food industry should continue to be viewed from two different perspectives:

(a) The problems created by the impossibility of taking full advantage of the export potential for coffee, honey, tobacco, live lobsters and aquaculture products to the nearest market, the United States. This has implied major losses, since it has been necessary to sell to markets located further away, with the resulting higher marketing and distribution costs. Payment of additional costs negatively affects the country's capacity to purchase basic products, especially food. Moreover, trade often leads to a transfer of know-how and scientific collaboration. Cubans are not benefiting from these transfers;

(b) The increase in costs for inputs needed for agricultural, fisheries and livestock production (fuel, spare parts for agricultural machinery, animal feeds, phyto- and zoosanitary products, fertilizers, top technological products such as herbicides, low-toxicity insecticides and other highly effective pesticides or veterinary pharmaceuticals, and disease diagnostic kits), which in many cases are only produced by United States firms. This directly increases production costs, resulting in decreased profitability and lower capacity to satisfy local demand. In general, if equipment were purchased from the United States this would lower the cost of equipment imports by at least 20 per cent.

The global food and financial crises have contributed to a deterioration of the economic situation worldwide, but in Cuba the negative effects are more exacerbated owing to the embargo.

The embargo has very negative implications for Cuba's balance of trade and its foreign exchange earnings, as well as for the country's supply of food and agriculture products. The embargo affects imports of food products for human consumption, particularly those intended for social programmes, as restrictions limit their quantity and quality, thus having a direct effect on the food security of the vulnerable segments of the population.

An additional problem resulting from the embargo is Cuba's difficulty in accessing external multilateral financing for development programmes in agriculture and rural development in general, and the related unavailability of resources for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure.

Effects of the embargo on selected agricultural commodities

Cereals

Planting of the main 2011 paddy crops began in April and is set to continue until July. Largely based on expectations of a return to more normal climatic conditions, the area sown to paddy is preliminarily anticipated to recover by 2 per cent over the season.

Cereal production in 2010 is estimated at 779,000 tonnes, about 10 per cent below the output in 2009 and close to the average of the previous five years. The country is highly dependent on imports, with current forecasts indicating requirements of 530,000 tons of rice (to be imported in 2011); 720,000 tons of coarse grains (to be imported in the 2010-2011 marketing year (July/June)); and a projected 800,000 tons of wheat. Overall, cereal imports account for more than 70 per cent of domestic use.

In general, despite the Government's effort to increase domestic food production through the land delivery process initiated in 2009 as well as the program for urban and suburban agriculture (which will assign more than 1.5 million unproductive hectares to farmers as usufructuaries), the difficulty in procuring farming tools, supplies and other inputs is constraining the use of land to its full capacity.

Although in the past Cuba sourced much of its grain requirements from the European Union, the easing of sanctions by the United States since 2001 has resulted in larger purchases from the United States. Similarly, and in spite of significant efforts to boost local production, Cuba continues to rely on foreign supplies to meet much of its rice consumption needs, with its annual imports in recent years amounting to over 500,000 tons. However, the embargo has created a shift towards suppliers other than the United States, in particular Viet Nam, with whom preferential Government-to-Government agreements have been reached. As a result, United States rice shipments to the island have in effect come to a halt. Although efforts to remove obstacles to exports in 2010 did not culminate in a major United States policy shift, the United States rice sector has sustained its support for similar legislative proposals introduced more recently, which would permanently remove the advance payment condition on exports, as well as restrictions on direct payments for produce sold to Cuba. Industry support for such initiatives hinges on the belief that the elimination of these restrictions on agricultural exports to Cuba would pave the way for the resumption of large rice shipments to the island.

Oilseeds

Oilseed production in Cuba is not significant and, as a result, the country depends almost entirely on imports to supply its vegetable oil and meal needs. Commodities dominating imports are soybeans, soy oil and soy meal. Recently, Brazil started providing assistance to Cuba for the cultivation of adapted, high-yielding varieties on the island. When the United States embargo came into effect, Argentina and Brazil became the main suppliers of soybeans and derived products. Both Canada and Mexico have occasionally shipped small volumes to Cuba. Countries and regions from which Cuba imported non-soybean oils and meals include Argentina, Mexico, the European Union, Canada and China.

Raw sugar

According to the latest estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Cuba produced 1.2 million tons of sugar in 2010-2011, which is about 3 per cent below the average level for the period 2005-2009. Despite a moderate recovery in production, which reached 1.5 million tons in 2007, output has remained on a downward trend, owing largely to underinvestment in the sugar production capacities in farms and mills alike. Sugar consumption in 2010-2011 is estimated at 734,000 tons, an increase of 3.3 per cent over the previous year, which is in line with population growth. Because of declining production, exports fell drastically, by 76 per cent from their levels in 2000-2001. As a result of the embargo, Cuba does not have access to the United States market under the raw sugar tariff rate quota.

Poultry and eggs

In 2008, a number of hurricanes severely damaged the poultry industry and the infrastructure of hatcheries and broiler houses. Reconstruction proved difficult, resulting in a surge in poultry imports in 2009 and 2010 to about 180,000 tons. The United States supplied about 80 per cent of poultry imports, with another 18 per cent originating from Brazil. Poultry consumption in Cuba is estimated at 200,000 tons in 2010.

Cuba faces limitations in the development of an internal poultry industry. Restricted access to technologies available in the United States and other countries, as well as to raw materials for balanced feed rations, prevent the reduction of the import bill. The dependence of the poultry sector on imported feedstock has led to the adoption of preventive measures to avoid a collapse in protein supply should exports of feedstock from the United States be paralysed. The Government therefore keeps 3.8 million eggs under refrigeration to guarantee the supply of eggs to the population, at a cost of $5.6 million. The Government estimates that the direct cost of the embargo for the poultry industry is approximately $53.4 million, excluding the imports of inputs.

Dairy products

Milk powder accounts for over 90 per cent of Cuba's dairy imports (60,000 tons yearly). Imports are destined mainly for the Government's social programmes. Over the past five years, Cuba has invested in its dairy sector, propelling national milk production to 645,000 tons in 2010, 80 per cent more than in 2005. This success has enabled the country to reduce its dependence on dairy imports, primarily milk powder, which fell from over 70,000 tons in 2005 to 20,000 tonnes in 2010. Major suppliers are countries from Latin America (mainly Uruguay) and Oceania. The United States market share in total exports of dairy products to Cuba is only about 6 per cent.

Fish products

Almost all of Cuba's fish exports consist of high-value products, notably frozen shrimp and lobster, which are in strong demand on the international market. The economic crisis impacted demand negatively for this species in 2009. However, the embargo prevents access to largest markets for fish and fish products, the United States. As a result, Cuba is obliged to export to more distant markets, which generates higher marketing and distribution costs. Export earnings amounted to $80 million in 2008 for a total volume of 6,100 tons (product weight), while fish imports, consisting mainly of low-value fish products, amounted to $66 million for a total volume of 41,700 tons (product weight).

Technical assistance to Cuba by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to support the Government of Cuba in promoting rural development and fisheries, with emphasis on food security.

While Cuba is no longer receiving immediate support in response to the hurricanes and tropical storms that severely affected the country at the end of 2008, FAO is still providing rehabilitation assistance to the country for a more sustainable recovery, through two projects in particular. One project provides support for the rehabilitation of the agricultural and fisheries sectors affected by the 2008 cyclones, with $1.5 million in funding from the Government of Spain, and the other assists in the recovery of the productive capacities of the agricultural and fisheries sectors of the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud, which was affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Also in response to these climatic events, the Government of Norway provided $204,000 in funding for a twofold intervention to assist in the recovery of the agricultural and aquaculture sectors of Isla de la Juventud, in partnership with the Cuban Ministry of Food Industry and the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The project was completed in May 2011.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations participates in two joint programmes funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, in association with other resident agencies. In cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as institutions under five ministries, FAO implements the programme entitled "Support for the fight against anaemia in vulnerable groups in Cuba", and is responsible for activities involving food production and processing. The total budget of the joint programme is $8.5 million, of which FAO is responsible for administering $3.3 million.

The second joint programme, entitled "Support for new decentralization initiatives and production stimulation in Cuba", is implemented jointly with UNDP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as with the Ministries of Agriculture, Economy and Planning. The programme has a budget of $7 million, of which FAO is responsible for $1.1 million to support activities involving training and food production and processing.

In July 2010, approval was granted for a project to apply and develop agricultural drainage technologies in Cuba. The objectives of the project are to assess the feasibility of introducing underground drainage technologies to improve drainage conditions in areas affected by excessive moisture and control soil salinity, and to hold a technical workshop at national level on solutions to the problems of poor drainage and associated salinity.

As part of the FAO/World Organization for Animal Health initiative on the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, priority has been given to the following diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever, influenzas (HPAI /H5N1, influenza A (H1N1), equine influenza), New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), bovine spongiform encephalopathy and rabies. Cuba has taken several measures to prevent, control and eliminate these diseases.

Cuba also plays an active role in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and agrobiodiversity. As a member of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources, Cuba actively participated in the fifth session of the Working Group, held in Rome from 27 to 29 April 2010.

Furthermore, FAO has provided technical support and assistance to develop tools for Cuba to establish a National Information Sharing Mechanism for applying the new monitoring approach for the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. In 2010, FAO supported Cuba's efforts to update and improve the mechanism tools used in national assessments of plant genetic resources. The mechanism allows a network of 14 institutions holding national collections to strengthen capacities and interaction among themselves and with the international community.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

Assistance activities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to all of its member States, including Cuba, are governed by article III/C of its statute, which reads as follows: "in carrying out its functions, the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute". However, the existing embargo continues to pose certain difficulties to the implementation of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in Cuba, as it is not possible to procure some specialized equipment from United States companies, or, on occasion, to obtain visas for Cuban nationals to attend IAEA-organized training activities or meetings in the United States. In June 2010, the Cuban programme was affected by the cancellation of a purchase order as a consequence of a change of ownership and subsequent export denial. This not only necessitated a technical re-evaluation of requirements and a search for alternative suppliers in a very specialized market, causing serious delays in the procurement process, but also will lead to a significant increase in costs. In accordance with the above-mentioned article of its Statute, the Agency tries to overcome these difficulties, to the extent that it can, in order to meet the requirements of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in Cuba.

International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

The mandate of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is to promote the safe, secure and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. The Organization is not directly involved in the implementation of resolution 65/6, which is directed at States.

At the thirty-seventh session of the ICAO Assembly (28 September to 8 October 2010), Cuba submitted a working paper (see document A37-WP/312) containing updated information on, and evidence of, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on it by the United States, and the impact of the blockade on all of its economic sectors, including civil aviation. Cuba invited the Assembly to acknowledge that such unilateral measures, which negatively affect the development of civil aviation, constituted a violation of the principles and objectives of the Chicago Convention; to request the Secretary General of ICAO to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the impact of these measures on Cuban civil aviation; and to request that the President of the Council present an annual report to the Council for as long as the embargo remains in effect.

The working paper was considered in the Economic Commission, where a number of delegations stated their support for the position taken by Cuba and for the actions proposed in the paper. In their view, the United States embargoes on some States had an adverse impact on civil aviation in the countries concerned, especially on the economic development of air transport. Such unilateral measures affected their participation in international air transport activities by causing them to incur additional expenses in order to fulfil safety obligations under the Chicago

Convention owing to their being denied access to aircraft, spare parts and aviation equipment, as well as technical support. Although they recognized that the issue was a political one, it also had an economic impact on civil aviation. They felt that this was not just a bilateral matter, but one that could have wider-reaching effects on third parties. They considered ICAO the appropriate forum to examine this matter because the principles and provisions of the Chicago Convention were at issue. Highlighting the lack of progress in resolving the issue in ICAO, they called for more effective action by the Assembly and the Council to address the matter.

The United States expressed the view that the matter was a bilateral political issue that was not appropriate for discussion in this forum dealing with technical matters. It requested that the matter be handled appropriately and suggested that it be referred to the President of the Council. A delegation expressed the view that this was not an issue for the Economic Commission, but one of political nature that should be dealt with by the Council.

The Commission noted the information contained in WP/312 and recognized that this was a complex, delicate and sensitive issue that had generated strong views on each side but which the Economic Commission could not resolve. It was therefore decided that the Chairperson of the Commission would bring this matter, including the views expressed in the Commission and the concerns expressed by Cuba and others over the lack of progress, to the attention of the President of the Council, whose good offices had been involved in this issue on previous occasions.

The ICAO technical cooperation Bureau has carried out several activities since June 2010. For example, the Lima office issued four fellowship awards to Cubans under two regional technical cooperation projects. The fellowships are awarded to professionals in the civil aviation sector in the fields of air cargo planning and management, operational safety management and air traffic control automation. The Bureau is currently negotiating one additional project on the improvement of safety and services in two international airports, including identification of financial support for its implementation. A final proposal is under consideration by the Cuban authorities.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

[Original: English]
[25 July 2011]

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) maintains an open dialogue with the Government of Cuba, through its representatives in Italy, on all matters pertaining to rural development, agricultural production and food security in the country. Cuba also participates in the IFAD Governing Council as a member State. Over the past few years, IFAD has fielded missions to Cuba so as to reintegrate the country into its regular lending mechanisms and programme of work. In addition, IFAD maintains a fluid dialogue and cooperates with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other United Nations agencies present in the country.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]
[13 May 2011]

Cuba is treated in the same way as any other member State of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and actively participates in the annual International Labour Conference and other ILO bodies. The ILO Office in Mexico continues its technical cooperation programme on issues of employment and decent work in Cuba. During the biennium 2010-11, ILO is providing technical assistance in three substantive areas:

(a) Promotion of productivity, income generation and decent work, particularly in the strategic industries of sugar and tourism, through human resources development based on labour competencies;

(b) Consolidation of national social security programmes and policies, with special emphasis on the reduction of work-related accidents and diseases in high-risk sectors (construction, agriculture, electricity) through training and effective prevention systems;

(c) Strengthening of labour administration and social dialogue, specifically for the effective monitoring of fundamental principles and rights at work.

ILO has also offered technical assistance to the Cuban Government for the implementation of the labour reconversion programme adopted by the sixth Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, held in April 2011.

ILO reiterates its view that the United Nations is the appropriate forum in which to address questions related to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[7 June 2011]

As a State member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Cuba benefits from participation in the meetings of IMO bodies, and is a recipient of IMO technical cooperation programmes (IMO regional programmes on support to maritime development in Latin America and in the Caribbean, as well as global programmes, as applicable).

IMO maintains collaborative relations with all Latin American States members, including Cuba. Since the early 1980s, IMO has collaborated closely with the Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of the Americas, which comprises South America, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

IMO assistance to Latin America is guided by the maritime strategies of the region, which are revised every five years, and IMO will continue to focus on supporting their implementation. Countries of the Operative Network have addressed such issues as safety standards, training and protection of the marine environment through regional strategies, with numerous training activities organized in cooperation with IMO. In this context, and in pursuance of its decentralization policies, most IMO support is channelled through the Network by virtue of a memorandum of understanding signed with the Network's secretariat. Through this instrument, the Network is assigned responsibility for the management and execution of regional technical cooperation activities identified as priorities by the respective countries, including Cuba, in building capacities for the effective implementation and enforcement of IMO global maritime standards.

On 1 January 2011, Cuba, through its Ministry of Transport, took over the duties of the Network's secretariat for a period of two years. As a result of the embargo imposed by the United States, IMO has encountered some difficulties in transferring to the secretariat the funds it allocates to the Network so that it can carry out its delegated activities. Former Network secretariats opened a special bank account in a national bank to receive the funds allocated for training activities. In the case of Cuba, all of the funds must be managed through the United Nations Development Programme in Cuba because it is not possible for the Ministry of Transport to have a bank account in United States dollars.

Cuba also receives technical assistance from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean, a regional activity centre based in Curaçáo, which aims to assist countries in the wider Caribbean region in preventing and responding to major pollution incidents in the marine environment.

International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]
[2 June 2011]

Cuba raised its concerns with respect to the embargo preventing its access to information and communication technologies in its policy statement during the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference held in October 2010 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Interference with Cuba's communications also continued to receive full consideration by ITU. Two active cases of complaints of harmful interference submitted by Cuba involving transmissions from radio stations based onboard an aircraft under the administration of the United States are under consideration by the ITU Radio Regulations Board.

In the light of the regular reports from Cuba of the continuing nature of the harmful interference on two frequencies, the Radio Regulations Board has continued to encourage the administrations of the United States and Cuba to cooperate and find a solution. The main challenge is to find technical solutions in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations without the use of technologies that are restricted from being exported to Cuba.

Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for operational activities for development, Cuba

[Original: English]
[30 June 2011]

The United Nations country team in Cuba has prepared annual reports on the adverse effects of the embargo maintained for almost five decades by the United States against Cuba. Over the course of 2010, there was no significant improvement in comparison with the previous period.

The impact of the embargo is pervasive in the social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development in Cuba and, in particular, affects the most vulnerable socio-economic groups of the Cuban population. Humanitarian and development cooperation implemented by the United Nations system in Cuba is also seriously affected.

Each United Nations agency has contributed specific inputs to the report of the Secretary-General. The present report describes the most significant common limitations imposed by the embargo on the work of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in Cuba.

Purchase of inputs at non-competitive prices and limitations on imports of goods, services and technologies patented in the United States

Cuban national companies and foreign companies established in Cuba are not allowed to purchase products, components or technologies in United States territory, even though the United States is the closest, most competitive and most diversified market. Alternative adequate markets are more distant, resulting in higher import costs and delays in delivery time. In addition, goods, services and technologies produced by the United States, covered by United States patents or containing any component produced or patented by the United States are not available to Cuba.

Development inputs and humanitarian products, such as medicines, medical equipment, fertilizers, food supplements, laboratory equipment, agricultural implements, educational resources, computers, information and communications technology software, tools, construction materials and electric generators, are affected by these restrictions, even if they are purchased through multilateral cooperation.

This context has had a negative impact on the development and humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations system to Cuba. This is particularly relevant for projects supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and focusing on vulnerable groups in such areas as maternal health, child mortality, HIV/AIDS and food security.

Consequently, the expected results of programmes and projects have been limited in scope and timing. Furthermore, the budgetary resources required to cover additional costs incurred as a result of embargo conditions could have been used to more effectively achieve the expected programme results.

In addition, the implementation of programmes designed to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals as well as natural disasters and their impact, among other things, has been limited owing to the lack of specialized software, since the United Nations system in Cuba is affected by the restrictions on the acquisition of licences for computer software patented in the United States.

The daily work of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Cuba is directly affected by these United States polices. The United Nations system in Cuba can rarely benefit from global United Nations corporate contracts with United States companies to purchase and have access to equipment and services, such as computers, software licenses and Internet services. It is therefore necessary to identify providers exclusively for these offices, with higher prices and administrative costs.

Exchange of expertise

Professional exchanges between Cuba and the United States continue to be hampered by visa policies, even when training programmes or seminars are organized with the support of United Nations technical cooperation projects. Consequently, it is difficult to establish alliances and partnerships with non-governmental organizations, universities, research institutes or philanthropic institutions and to promote cultural and technical exchanges among experts from the two countries.

The embargo has also limited partnerships on development-related issues between the United Nations in Cuba and United States institutions, thereby affecting the work of the Organization in the country and the potential for further development opportunities related to the Millennium Development Goals.

Development credits granted by international financial institutions and financial services from United States banks

The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, which in turn has narrowed the country's possibilities of obtaining resources to financially support its national and/or local development plans.

Bank transfer operations have also been occasionally retained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, thereby affecting the timely implementation of development activities. The most significant event that affected United Nations development activities in the country during 2010 was the delay in the arrival of funds from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) accounts. From December 2010 to May 2011, $4,207,904 was withheld by OFAC, and only after cumbersome negotiations were the funds released. These resources were to be used to purchase antiretroviral drugs for more than 1,400 people under treatment, and to procure HIV testing components, such as laboratory reagents needed to identify the virus and monitor more than 11,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. The negative impact that this retention might have caused was neutralized by the advancement of UNDP temporary resources. Without these advanced resources, this six-month delay would have had a severe impact on thousands of people and hindered a project aimed at supporting a key Millennium Development Goal.

United Nations local offices in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with United States banks. Therefore, these offices have to take additional administrative measures to carry out programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and a higher administrative burden entailed by the use of third-country banks. The related cost increases have been covered by United Nations and project funds from other donor countries.

Also as a result of the embargo, Cuban United Nations staff on official missions do not have access to bank services, which conditions their capacity to cover costs, especially in emergencies, owing to lack of access to credit cards.

United Nations staff missions to United Nations Headquarters in the United States

Cuban United Nations staff required to travel to United Nations Headquarters in New York or to its offices in Washington, D.C., must request their visa well in advance. In some cases, national staff experience delays in visa authorizations, which results in the cancellation of missions or the rebooking of air tickets at a higher cost. Longer and costlier alternative routes via third countries need to be booked owing to the lack of direct flights from Cuba to New York or Washington, D.C. This hinders the participation and representation of Cuba's United Nations system staff in corporate training and official meetings, thereby limiting the capacities of the United Nations system in Cuba to work and follow up on the latest systems, policies and guidance on development and emergency activities.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

[Original: English]
[9 May 2011]

Cuba is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. As such, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) receives and decides asylum claims under its mandate and contributes to providing assistance to the refugee population. Thus far, Cuba has maintained its de facto policy of non-refoulement and of protection and assistance in the education and health sectors to refugees recognized under the mandate of UNHCR, but does not offer local integration possibilities for them. Therefore, and in the absence of prospects for voluntary return in most of the cases, the only durable solution for refugees in Cuba is resettlement sought by UNHCR in third countries.

It is anticipated that Cuba's readiness to become a party to the international refugee instruments and to engage in finding solutions to the refugee situation in the country is contingent on a change in its bilateral relations with the United States. In this sense, any measure contributing to ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba is seen as a positive step that may lead to Cuba's accession to such instruments.

United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: English]
[14 July 2011]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to have negative effects on the situation and fundamental rights of children and women. Its adverse effects were felt in the shortage of materials for the health and education sectors.

Impact on the fundamental rights of children in Cuba

Health

Health services continue to be affected by the lack of supplies and medicines. For instance, children being treated at the National Institute of Oncology and Radiology and the William Soler Paediatric Cardiology Centre have felt the negative impact of the embargo as medication, equipment and other items are scarce.

The primary external obstacles are the imposition of conditions for the purchase of medical products and devices, prohibitions and sanctions on sales to Cuba of products manufactured or marketed by United States companies or subsidiaries, the remoteness of possible alternative markets and the use of commercial intermediaries. All of these problems entail an increase in freight costs and prices, as well as fewer options for the procurement of medications, reagents, spare parts for medical equipment, instrument sets and other supplies.

Food and nutrition

The embargo also restricts food imports. The low availability and consumption of iron-rich foods continues to be one of the causes of anaemia in vulnerable population groups, such as women of childbearing age, pregnant women and boys and girls under 5 years of age. Various agencies of the United Nations system are involved in joint initiatives to support Government efforts to decrease the prevalence of anaemia, which has been recognized as a health problem in those population groups.

Education

The same economic, financial and commercial obstacles also contribute to problems in the provision of quality education, as they curtail the procurement of construction material and education supplies and equipment. This affects the maintenance and state of repair of school facilities, thereby making it difficult to meet the physical-environmental and hygienic-sanitary requirements established by the Ministry of Education for teaching activities. The embargo also hinders the use of licensed educational software produced by United States companies.

Trade barriers make it very difficult to purchase the necessary equipment for children with disabilities, including those in need of physical rehabilitation or special education.

Impact of the embargo on the country programme of cooperation

Commercial limitations increase the price of items that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) needs to purchase as part of its projects. Inter-agency efforts to integrate procurement plans are also affected owing to the variability and high cost of the products.

The UNICEF country office in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with United States banks. Therefore, additional administrative measures must be devised to carry out programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and a higher administrative burden entailed by the use of third-country banks. The related cost increases have been covered by project support funds, which otherwise could have been invested in direct programming activities.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]
[6 May 2011]

The Accra Accord, adopted at the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in April 2008, urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It further stresses that meaningful trade liberalization requires addressing non-tariff measures, including unilateral measures, where they may act as unnecessary trade barriers. The Accra Accord calls for international efforts to be made to address non-tariff measures and reduce or eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers.

Trends in Cuba

The embargo has significantly affected the Cuban economy and the standard of living of Cuban citizens. The Government of Cuba reports that overall direct economic losses caused by the embargo in 2009 were $4 billion.[1] The adverse effects of the embargo on the public health and food sectors have been notable given their essential roles in the lives of the Cuban people. Since the introduction in the United States of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, United States exports of some agricultural products and some medicines and medical devices have been allowed. Nevertheless, the continuing financial and travel restrictions severely impede exports of these products. The Government of Cuba reports that the embargo required it to incur $15.2 million in additional expenditures on public health between May 2009 and April 2010. A study conducted by the United States International Trade Commission reports that Cuba imported $708 million in agricultural products from the United States in 2008, and that lifting the existing financial and travel restrictions would have increased Cuba's imports by $216 to $478 million.[2] Moreover, the negative impact of the extraterritorial application of the embargo is substantial, as United States firms are frequently involved in international mergers and business partnerships. Hence, the extraterritorial application of the embargo not only negatively affects Cuba, but also deprives third countries of business opportunities with Cuba.

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[1] Calculated on the basis of figures provided in World Trade Organization, "Cuba-article XV: 6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994: report by the Government of Cuba under the decision of 15 December 2006" (WT/L/781), 7 December 2009 and (WT/L/803), 18 November 2010.

[2] Jonathan R. Coleman, "United States agricultural sales to Cuba: certain economic effects of United States restrictions: an update", Office of Industries Working Paper No. ID-22 (United States International Trade Commission, June 2009), p. 8.

The Cuban economy showed moderate growth of 1.4 per cent in 2009, down by 2.7 per cent from the previous year.[3] The effects of the global financial and economic crisis, such as lower world prices for nickel and a reduction in tourism from leading sources Canada and Europe, contributed to sluggish growth. Also, Cuba was still recovering from the devastation caused by two major hurricanes in 2008, particularly in the agricultural sector. As a result of the economic downturn, the Government of Cuba introduced austerity measures in mid-2009 that included energy rationing and cutbacks in transportation and some food programmes.[4] In 2010, GDP was projected to increase by 1.5 per cent.[5] Reportedly, overall food production has been significantly below target and there have been shortages of some basic agricultural products.[6]

Cuba's trade in goods declined substantially in 2009 from the previous year. UNCTAD estimates that Cuba exported $3.1 billion and imported $9.6 billion in goods, a decrease of $1 billion and $5.8 billion, respectively, from 2008. The sharp reduction in imports generated a goods trade deficit of $6.5 billion in 2009, representing a substantial drop from $11.4 billion in 2008. This steep decline resulted in a surplus of $91 million in the overall current account balance in 2009 compared with a deficit of $4.7 billion in the previous year.

The main export items in goods in 2009 were "Ores and metals", accounting for $1.8 billion or 59 per cent of the total, followed by "all food items" and "manufactured goods". This ranking of sectors was the same as in the previous year, and exports in all sectors declined from the previous year. As to the destination of Cuba's exports, the European Union was the largest market for Cuban goods, which were comprised mainly of "ores and metals" and "all food items". The second largest export market was Latin America and the Caribbean, to which the majority of exports consisted of "manufactured goods". The European Union accounted for 26 per cent of Cuba's export market, while the Latin America and Caribbean region accounted for 13 per cent.

The main import items in goods in 2009 were "manufactured goods", which accounted for $5 billion, or 52 per cent of the total, followed by "fuels" and "all food items". This ranking of sectors was the same as in the previous year, and imports in all sectors declined from the previous year. The Latin America and Caribbean region was the largest source of imports, accounting for 42 per cent of Cuba's total, and over 70 per cent of goods imports were "fuels". The European Union was the second largest source of imports, accounting for 22 per cent of Cuba's total. A majority of the imports were "manufactured goods". The introduction in the United States of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 has made the country the single largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba. In 2009, United States agriculture exports accounted for $671 million, or 44 per cent, of Cuba's total agricultural imports.

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[3] World Trade Organization, "Cuba-article XV: 6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994: report by the Government of Cuba under the decision of 15 December 2006" (WT/L/803), 18 November 2010, p. 2.

[4] Mark P. Sullivan, "Cuba: issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 31 March 2011, p. 12.

[5] The Economist Intelligence Unit "Country report: Cuba", December 2010, p. 3.

[6] Mark P. Sullivan, "Cuba: issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 28 January 2011, p. 14.

Cuba's trade in services also declined in 2009 from the previous year. UNCTAD estimates that Cuba exported $8 billion and imported $1.4 billion. The magnitude of this decline was much less than for trade in goods. The country had a surplus of $6.6 billion in trade in service trade in 2009, which was slightly lower than in 2008.

Cuba's major service exports are health, education and tourism. The cooperation agreement with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which links Cuba's oil imports to its exports of health care and education services, remains an important source of support for the Cuban economy.[7] Also, remittances from relatives living abroad, especially from the United States, have become a significant source of hard currency, with more than $1 billion reportedly sent to Cuba in 2009.[8] A breakdown of Cuba's service imports is not available.

Cuba's main trading partners in 2009 were the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, China, Spain, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Viet Nam and even the United States, in terms of agricultural exports to Cuba.[9] Economic ties with emerging economies, such as China, Brazil and the Russian Federation, are becoming increasingly important. UNCTAD estimates that exports and imports of goods will rise by 17 to 25 per cent in 2010. Trade in services is projected to be slightly higher than in 2009. Data on service imports for 2010 are not yet available.

Developments in the United States

In January 2011, the United States Administration announced some relaxation of the embargo. The changes made included: (a) allowing greater licensing of travel to Cuba for educational, cultural, religious and journalistic activities; (b) allowing any United States person to send remittances of up to $500 per quarter per person to any Cuban national, except prohibited officials of the Government of Cuba or prohibited members of the Cuban Communist Party; (c) authorizing unlimited remittances to religious organizations in Cuba; (d) authorizing remittances to individuals or independent non-governmental entities to support the development of private businesses, including small farms; (d) authorizing certain transactions with individual Cuban nationals who have taken up permanent residence outside of Cuba; and (e) allowing all United States international airports to provide services to licensed charter flights to and from Cuba.[10] These measures are similar to those taken by the Clinton Administration in 1999, which were subsequently abolished by the Bush Administration in 2003 and 2004.[11] The easing of restrictions on remittances to Cuba is expected to result in a significant increase in current transfers in the country. Several legislative proposals have been made in the current United States Congress to lift or ease the embargo, but their prospects presently are uncertain.

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[7] The Economist Intelligence Unit "Country report: Cuba", May 2010, p. 4.

[8] Mark P. Sullivan, "Cuba: issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 28 January 2011, p. 11.

[9] Ibid., p. 15.

[10] "Cuban assets control regulations" and "Airports of entry or departure for flights to and from Cuba", *Federal Register*, vol. 76, No. 19 (28 January 2011), pp. 5072-5078 and 5058-5061, respectively.

[11] Mark P. Sullivan, "Cuba: issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 31 March 2011, p. 24.

Conclusions

Since the previous reporting period, there has been some relaxation of the United States embargo. This will undoubtedly have a favourable effect on the lives of the Cuban people. It should be noted, however, that these policy adjustments mainly restored the relaxation measures that were abolished in the early 2000s. Nevertheless, on the whole, the embargo remains intact and is severely constraining the development of Cuba and the improvement of its citizens' living standards. Although its bilateral cooperation programmes with developing countries help Cuba to face the challenges posed by the United States embargo, the country still endures tremendous economic and social hardship. Cuba experienced a serious economic downturn in 2009 owing to the impact of the global financial and economic crisis. Although there were signs of recovery, economic growth likely remained sluggish in 2010. Reports of low food production and shortages of some basic agricultural products are of particular concern. Without the embargo, this shortage of food could have been mitigated. Furthermore, the embargo's extraterritorial reach penalizes firms and people in the third countries. Finally, the embargo limits the freedom of United States citizens to travel and conduct their lives in an ordinary manner.

Details of Cuba's merchandise exports and imports in the period 2006-2010 are given in table 1. Details of Cuba's services exports and imports in the period 2006-2010 are given in table 2.

Table 1

Merchandise exports and imports by Cuba, 2006-2010

(Millions of United States dollars)

Partner	*Commodity group*	*2006*	*2007^{a}*	*2008^{a}*	*2009^{a}*	*2010^{a}*
Exports						
European Union (27 States)	All food items	324	405	344	333	416
	Ores and metal	675	509	540	445	463
	Fuels	—	2	—	5	8
	Manufactured goods	25	18	11	26	32
Total		**1 024**	**934**	**895**	**809**	**919**
Latin America and the Caribbean	All food items	29	3	5	18	19
	Ores and metal	5	—	1	13	18
	Fuels	—	2	—	30	49
	Manufactured goods	569	224	272	346	342
Total		**604**	**230**	**279**	**407**	**429**
United States	All food items	—	—	—	—	—
	Ores and metal	—	—	—	—	—
	Fuels	—	—	—	—	—
	Manufactured goods	—	—	—	—	—
Total		**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**

Partner	*Commodity group*	*2006*	*2007*[a]	*2008*[a]	*2009*[a]	*2010*[a]
Rest of the world	All food items	342	815	740	476	641
	Ores and metal	992	1 784	2 019	1 366	1 836
	Fuels	11	200	28	23	33
	Manufactured goods	8	15	10	28	42
Total		**1 352**	**2 815**	**2 798**	**1 893**	**2 552**
World	All food items	695	1 224	1 090	827	1 075
	Ores and metal	1 672	2 294	2 561	1 824	2 318
	Fuels	11	205	29	58	90
	Manufactured goods	602	257	293	399	416
Total		**2 980**	**3 980**	**3 973**	**3 109**	**3 900**
Imports						
European Union (27 States)	All food items	176	188	452	283	351
	Ores and metal	20	32	62	33	38
	Fuels	2	1	44	22	23
	Manufactured goods	2 010	2 035	2 862	1 812	1 784
Total		**2 216**	**2 255**	**3 421**	**2 150**	**2 196**
Latin America and the Caribbean	All food items	465	683	700	388	490
	Ores and metal	31	17	49	29	50
	Fuels	2 537	3 225	4 753	2 904	2 905
	Manufactured goods	816	879	1 060	728	881
Total		**3 850**	**4 804**	**6 561**	**4 048**	**4 326**
United States	All food items	430	608	976	671	752
	Ores and metal	—	—	—	—	—
	Fuels	—	—	—	—	—
	Manufactured goods	14	11	28	18	19
Total		**453**	**619**	**1 006**	**689**	**770**
Rest of the world	All food items	330	230	509	175	252
	Ores and metal	29	14	129	40	40
	Fuels	338	297	13	33	627
	Manufactured goods	2 975	2 663	3 746	2 484	3 085
Total		**3 655**	**3 204**	**4 397**	**2 732**	**4 004**

Partner	*Commodity group*	*2006*	*2007*[a]	*2008*[a]	*2009*[a]	*2010*[a]
World	All food items	1 402	1 708	2 636	1 517	1 845
	Ores and metal	80	63	242	102	128
	Fuels	2 876	3 523	4 811	2 959	3 555
	Manufactured goods	5 816	5 587	7 696	5 042	5 769
Total		**10 174**	**10 882**	**15 384**	**9 619**	**11 296**

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database and the International Monetary Fund Direction of Trade Statistics database.

Notes: All food items (United Nations Statistics Division Standard International Trade Classification, codes 0+1+22+4)

Ores and metal (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 27+28+68)

Fuels (Standard International Trade Classification, code 3)

Manufactured goods (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 5-8, less codes 67 and 68).

[a] Estimates.

Table 2

Estimated service exports and imports by Cuba, 2006-2010

(Millions of United States dollars)

2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*		*2010*	
Export	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*
6 667	1 263	8 207	1 330	8 842	2 092	7 976	1 375	8 231	—[a]

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit and WTO.

[a] Data not available as at 30 May 2011.

United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]
[30 June 2011]

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office in Cuba has been preparing annual reports on the effects of the embargo since 1992. With the exception of a new event described below, the situation during 2010 remained very similar to previous years. The impact of the embargo can be observed in all spheres of the country's social and economic activities, affecting opportunities for national and local development and creating economic hardship. The embargo affects the population's most vulnerable groups and human development in general.

According to estimates by Cuban authorities, cumulative direct and indirect losses to the Cuban economy due to the embargo from early in the 1960s to December 2009 amount to $100,154 billion.

The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, which in turn has narrowed the country's possibilities of obtaining resources to financially support its national and/or local development plans.

Although the embargo was loosened by recent United States regulations, it still has been difficult to establish partnerships and collaborate with United States non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and research institutes, and to promote exchanges among experts from both countries. The embargo has limited the efforts of NGOs based in the United States and private foundations to freely undertake development activities in Cuba, and as a result has also limited possible partnerships between UNDP and civil society groups based in the United States.

In 2010, UNDP was affected by one incident involving its HIV/AIDS portfolio. In December 2010, $4,207,904 from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria were withheld by the Office of Foreign Assets Control and only after cumbersome negotiations were the funds released, in May 2011. Absent temporary resources advanced by UNDP, this six-month delay could have caused constraints in many key projects, including the purchase of antiretroviral drugs for more than 1,400 people undergoing treatment, and would have put their lives directly at risk. This measure taken by the Office of Foreign Assets Control would have delayed not only the purchase of life-saving medicines, but also the procurement of HIV testing components, such as laboratory reagents, which were needed to identify the virus and monitor more than 11,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Prevention activities, such as the purchase of condoms and complementary didactic materials, were hampered, diminishing the possibilities for young Cuban people to take preventive measures against the epidemic. The negative impact that the Office's actions could have caused was neutralized by the advancement by UNDP of ad hoc funds. However, the eventual damage without UNDP action could have been severe.

In more general terms, the projects financed by the Global Fund, for which UNDP serves as the principal recipient provide medicines, reagents and laboratory equipment to benefit 11,674 people of all ages living with HIV/AIDS. They are purchased from third countries and from secondary suppliers at prices significantly higher than those on the international markets. Even if UNDP has long-term corporate agreements with international suppliers, the embargo restrictions hinder purchases through this mechanism when such products are manufactured or have a component manufactured in the United States. Examples of the above are the paediatric antiretroviral drugs needed for 26 children under treatment.

The embargo has had negative consequences for external cooperation initiatives, creating many difficulties for programme and project implementation owing to trade restrictions or prohibitions on purchasing inputs from United States companies and their subsidiaries. This situation has an adverse impact on the final cost of imported project inputs, owing to costs related to intermediaries and long-distance transportation.

Due to Cuba's geographical position, the United States market represents the closest, most convenient and most diversified trade area. However, Cuban companies are still unable to purchase products, components or technologies in United States territory, or from United States companies in other countries, the exception being foodstuffs, which can be purchased only with full-cost advance cash payments. These advance payments involve lengthy procedures and serve to discourage transactions.

Likewise, development projects have to purchase and import products from more distant places at a much higher cost. This has had a direct impact on all UNDP development projects and emergency activities by increasing the transaction costs of obtaining project inputs and the transportation costs of the imported goods. Projects have been affected by significant delays in the purchase and distribution of project inputs, which has had a negative impact on the timely implementation of project activities and on results. Such was the case, for example, with the delayed access to communication systems and software used in the early warning system and geographic information system applications, both of which are necessary for risk reduction.

Delays have also been observed in the arrival of agricultural inputs purchased under food security projects, such as irrigation systems, machinery and agricultural tools. These inputs have arrived outside the planning period, thus delaying project activities and results. This situation could potentially affect 7,000 farms and more than 400 agricultural cooperatives. As a result, and in order to cover incremental costs, financial proposals and new projects must programme additional financial resources, which otherwise would have been dedicated to development activities. These costs are covered by funds provided by all donors.

The embargo also affects the day-to-day work of the UNDP office in Cuba and places it at a disadvantage compared to other country offices. Limitations arise on the benefits that would come from corporate long-term agreements to effectively implement and follow up on the impact and the implementation of development and emergency activities. This increases transaction costs by at least 15 per cent owing to the participation of intermediaries and higher costs for equipment and services, such as computers, access to software licenses and access to Internet services.

The UNDP local office in Cuba is affected by not being able to use corporate accounts with United States banks and therefore must take additional administrative measures in order to carry out programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and the higher administrative burden that is entailed by the use of third-country banks. The related incremented costs have been covered by UNDP and project funds from other donors, thereby affecting the allocation of resources that otherwise would have been used in development activities.

Another way in which UNDP is affected by the embargo is that national staff required to travel to UNDP headquarters in New York must request their visa well in advance. Although this situation has recently improved, there have been several cases in which visas could not be granted on time and travel plans had to be changed or cancelled as a result. Similar situations have occurred when Government officials have had to attend meetings at UNDP headquarters. Furthermore, longer, costlier alternative air routes via third countries need to be booked, owing to the lack of direct flights from Cuba to New York. This hinders the participation and representation of Cuba's UNDP staff in corporate training and official meetings, thereby limiting the capacities of the office to follow up on the latest systems, policies and guidance implemented in other countries to effectively reach development and emergency goals and impacts.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

As the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is not a funding agency but rather a specialized technical agency within the United Nations system, it is difficult to quantify the damage of the embargo on programmes run by the organization within its fields of competence: education, science, culture, communications and information. From the qualitative point of view, however, the embargo continues to have an impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO and the following observations can be made.

The situation has remained relatively unchanged since 2010. In the area of education, the embargo continues to have an impact on the availability of educational resources owing to trade restrictions that prevent their purchase at more competitive prices. In the area of science, the embargo continues to limit the ability to purchase up-to-date scientific materials, and scientific academic and professional exchanges continue to be limited by visa policies that make travel and study movement difficult. In the area of culture, the embargo continues to have an impact on the ability to obtain historic preservation materials, supplies for cultural industries and cooperation with American institutions that might otherwise collaborate, including exchanges. In the area of communications and information, Cuba remains unable to acquire underwater fibre-optic cables handled by United States firms, software licences and certain equipment.

The embargo also has impacts on the operations of the UNESCO office in Havana, including bank transfers to service providers, resulting in additional costs for the organization, including for tickets and communications. Staff and their families are also affected personally in terms of bank transfers and international communications.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[23 June 2011]

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) carries out much of its work through South-South cooperation, which is comprised of training events, workshops and other activities involving mutual knowledge transfer, capacity-building and technical support between Cuba and other countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

UNEP has a number of projects being implemented in Cuba, some of which are now being affected by the embargo, such as the Caribbean Biological Corridor, which is being implemented by means of an agreement between Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and now Jamaica as a permanent observer. The impact of the embargo is seen in the gathering and processing of remotely sensed and spatial data for the Caribbean Biological Corridor. Lack of access to technology and equipment may hamper efforts to achieve the level of harmonization required for the three countries involved, as such devices are not made available to Cuba.

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba continues to have a negative impact on Cuba's capacity for environmental protection and sustainable development. In some cases, as stated previously, it indirectly affects neighbouring countries as well. The continuing embargo translates into missed opportunities for environmental cooperation in the region, as demonstrated by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill, caused by the substandard practices of British Petroleum in the Gulf, affected coastal areas of the United States but could have also affected the coastal areas of Cuba. Despite this proximity, any offshore drilling potentially undertaken by Cuba would be deprived of the exchange of knowledge and technology available a few miles away from Cuban waters, which may also be considered an environmental risk.

Other examples of impacts linked to the embargo are outlined below:

(a) As United States companies are not allowed to sell equipment, technology and other products to Cuban companies, the latter are forced to buy them in other markets, increasing cargo travel times to Cuba and subsequently increasing carbon emissions associated with transport;

(b) Cuba continues to increase energy efficiency, under its energy revolution programme, as well as to promote recycling and other green technologies. The aim is to decrease oil consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and to achieve general resource efficiency. However, technologies that could benefit this endeavour are not allowed to be sold to Cuba by United States companies or their subsidiaries in other countries. The same is true of other products of non-United States companies that contain parts or components provided by American companies or subsidiaries and that could assist in advancing such developments;[12]

(c) Cuba is one of the world's leaders in biological research, with thousands of graduates from the country's 10 universities and institutes in the field of ecology producing important technologies and products, including biotechnology applications. Cuba also possesses significant knowledge in natural resources conservation. However, these technologies and products cannot be sold in the United States;

(d) The participation of Cuban experts in environmental and sustainable development conferences and training activities is often constrained by travel restrictions and thousands of dollars are spent for more expensive and often longer travel routes;

(e) The embargo also restricts Cuba's access to information from leading scientific and technical journals and publications, as well as Internet access to specialized companies and institutions in the United States. This limits access by Cuban academics, engineers and students to cutting-edge developments in energy and environmental sciences, which could increase their capacity to implement sound environmental technologies. Connectivity restrictions also limit Cuba's ability to implement and comply with certain environmental treaties that require constant use of the Internet;

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[12] In the context of remotely sensed data and gathering imagery for the Caribbean Biological Corridor, as mentioned above, lack of access to technology and equipment may hamper efforts to achieve the level of harmonization required for the three countries involved, as such devices are not made available to Cuba. Project vehicles also involve additional costs, as those manufactured in the United States cannot be procured.

(f) Both the United States and Cuba have an interest in oil exploration and exploitation in shared marine areas. Joint environmental impact studies and environmentally friendly methods of operation are currently not possible, as a result of the embargo. The 2010 oil spill underlines this issue as a matter of urgency;

(g) Both countries are located in regions with critical biological corridors that could benefit from full regional cooperation;

(h) The United States and Cuba are located in a region where disasters, in particular hurricanes, are seriously affecting ecosystems and populations. Both countries are working to attain higher levels of disaster prevention and preparedness. In this sense, cooperation would benefit both countries, as well as other countries of the wider Caribbean region;

(i) Cuba has been recognized under various criteria as a country that has given high priority to the environment and sustainable development. The country was ranked ninth in the 2010 Environmental Performance Index, released recently by Yale and Columbia Universities. Nevertheless, the United States has always opposed Cuban projects in the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

(j) Another consequence of the embargo is Cuba's limited access to international loans and international financial institutions, which is affecting its progress towards sustainability. This has led to the general claims by Cuba that the embargo is hampering their sustainability efforts.

The elimination of the obstacles that limit normal exchange between the two countries would spur progress in the sustainable management of shared ecosystems and in cooperation between scientific and academic communities, and would increase the contribution of both countries to the fight against climate change, natural disasters and accident prevention. It would also benefit other countries where United States and Cuba have cooperative programmes.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

[Original: English]
[8 July 2011]

The United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba limits free trade and the transfer of scientific and technological know-how and expertise for peaceful and humanitarian purposes, and thus has a negative impact on the goods, services and technologies related to human settlements. The embargo therefore undermines the ability of the Government of Cuba to implement the Habitat Agenda and attain the Millennium Development Goals related to human settlements.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) wishes to make two observations related to its mandate and the effectiveness of its activities in Cuba. The first is related to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/6, the long-term objectives of which are:

(a) A stable and a speedy import supply of construction materials, tools and equipment, such as technology, as well as energy and raw materials for the construction and maintenance of human settlements and for their reconstruction after natural disasters;

(b) The transfer of more efficient and ecologically sound technologies and the use of patents originating from the United States or commercialized by United States companies and other companies around the world;

(c) Access to energy, energy-saving technologies and oil, which are important assets in the provision of basic urban services, such as transport, solid waste collection and disposal, water supply and sanitation, as well as emergency response to hazards, including fires, floods and hurricanes, so that Cubans can use efficient and environmentally sustainable alternatives;

(d) Access to low-cost chemicals and equipment for water and wastewater treatment, which is also needed to improve the quality and affordability of these services, and, in turn, their impact on environmental and public health;

(e) Settlement of outstanding claims on properties previously owned by United States citizens or naturalized Cuban citizens, which will improve the use and rehabilitation of important facilities and the rationality and coherence of urban and real estate development;

(f) Granting of visa and travel permits needed for scientific, technical and cultural exchanges, particularly for planners, architects, engineers and social scientists to advise their Cuban counterparts in the design, planning and management of housing and human settlements.

In essence, from the human settlements perspective, the implementation of resolution 65/6 will not only improve the quality of social, economic and environmental human settlements planning and management in general, but will also, in particular, promote significant improvements in the human settlement conditions of the poor and disadvantaged segments of the Cuban population.

The second observation is in relation to the latest activities of UN-Habitat in Cuba and plans for the near future, both of which stand to benefit from the implementation of resolution 65/6:

(a) During the reporting period, UN-Habitat has been collaborating with its counterparts, the Cuban National Housing Institute and the Physical Planning Institute, in developing cooperation projects and promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, while at the same time supporting Cuba's contribution to South-South cooperation;

(b) Pilot projects have been successfully completed in various cities and are now being systematized for future replication in Cuba and in other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in the areas of housing rehabilitation and urban environmental improvement. Future action to build capacities in adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction processes is already planned and will be implemented in the near future;

(c) UN-Habitat has played an active role in the United Nations country team in Cuba and is currently formulating a country programme document integrating collaborative projects between UN-Habitat and the Government of Cuba for the next few years. This document will soon be published;

(d) UN-Habitat is successfully collaborating with the Government of Cuba as part of an inter-agency project on risk reduction in several cities in order to promote citizen awareness of and participation in the risk management process;

(e) In collaboration with the Cuban National Housing Institute, UN-Habitat will develop a technical cooperation programme for housing sector reform during the period from 2011 to 2013.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]
[17 May 2011]

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) currently has one ongoing programme in Cuba, which assists the Government of Cuba in further strengthening its industrial capabilities and competitiveness in priority industrial sectors, and in enhancing its supply, tourist, export and national markets.

The programme, which has a strong inter-sectoral component and thematic link, is focused on the provision of support services, in accordance with the priorities established by the Government of Cuba. Those services are aimed at improving technologies, the performance of agribusiness enterprises and energy efficiency in the industrial and agro-industrial sectors under three main components:

(a) Component 1 involves support for enhancing the competitiveness of high-priority industrial sectors by carrying out activities in selected enterprises, as well as capacity-building in industrial and entrepreneurial management, with a particular focus on the use of organizational innovation for the continuous improvement of quality through the introduction of new management practices and quality management systems;

(b) Component 2 is centred on the introduction of effective technologies to achieve the efficient use of energy and the utilization of renewable energy in prioritized industrial sectors, in particular through methodologies for the mapping of wind, solar and hydrological resources;

(c) Component 3 involves sustainable development of the agribusiness sectors through the introduction of new technologies in product conservation, in particular solar drying for fruits and vegetables and in the production of tomato and fruit pulp; and the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies within the industrial sector, especially for energy efficiency in agribusiness.

The major highlights and achievements of this programme during the reporting period of June 2010 to April 2011 are as follows:

(a) Ten Cuban trainers and consultants received training for the subsequent introduction of the PHAROS enterprise systems management tool in Cuban enterprises;

(b) A study tour of Cuban business consultants from the DISAIC Consulting House and the Ministry of Heavy Industry was organized to Colombia to visit companies using PHAROS;

(c) PHAROS software was tested in five Cuban enterprises;

(d) In the field of energy efficiency capacity upgrading, energy auditors were trained and their technical capacities upgraded; cooperation with Cuban Ministry of Basic Industry is ongoing; and material on project formulation and development using the UNIDO Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting (COMFAR) was provided to counterparts in July 2010;

(e) Financed by the Global Environment Facility, UNIDO installed a biogas plant in Isla de la Juventud and finalized a wind farm in the area;

(f) A demonstration biogas plant for municipal solid waste management was commissioned in June 2010 in one municipality of Havana. This UNIDO pilot project for environmentally sound management of municipal waste follows an integrated approach encompassing waste separation, compost production, a biogas plant, a testing laboratory and landfills;

(g) Two solar dryer mini-plants with a treatment capacity of 800 kilograms of fruit per day were commissioned in June 2010 in Banao and Boyeros. These mini-plants will be replicated in several provinces of Cuba;

(h) An international seminar on medicinal plants was held in Havana from 16 to 21 May 2010.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that organized crime and drug trafficking continue to pose major threats to the security and well-being of Caribbean Member States. In this respect, the Office is currently conducting a regional transnational organized crime threat assessment for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, which should provide a better picture of illicit flows in the Caribbean and lay the foundations for more coordinated national responses.

UNODC has always cooperated most effectively with Cuba in the areas of its mandate. In Vienna, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations is one of the most active and constructive in support of efforts to strengthen the core capacities and resources of UNODC. The Office wishes to highlight the fact that Cuba has played a central role in the modernization process of UNODC by co-chairing the working group on finance and governance during the period from October 2009 to April 2011.

Cuba is a State party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and is engaged in the review mechanism established to assess the actual implementation of the Convention by States parties and provide the relevant technical assistance when appropriate and requested. Cuba will be under review by two other State parties in the second year of the Convention review mechanism (2011-2012). In line with the rules set forth in the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the UNCAC, Cuba will also play an essential role as a reviewer for other countries in the upcoming cycles.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will continue to integrate Cuba into its regional initiatives in the Caribbean. The Office has recently launched a Centre of Excellence on Prison Reform and Drug Demand Reduction in the Dominican Republic, which will offer training and technical assistance to the countries of Central America and the Caribbean. As part of the Centre's initial activities, UNODC will hold a high-level expert group meeting to identify best practices in the implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Experts from Cuba will be duly represented in the August 2011 meeting.

As part of a revamped and comprehensive approach for the Caribbean and, as a follow-up to the political declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in the Caribbean in February 2009, UNODC is building new expert capacity in the fields of organized crime, drug demand reduction, criminal justice, anti-corruption and crime prevention through its Regional Programme Office for Central America, located in Panama, and by posting experts in the Caribbean.

In the context of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, UNODC is currently developing regional initiatives to include Cuba, particularly in the fields of crime prevention, drug demand reduction and law enforcement. Fundraising is now under way and the Office hopes to rely on the support of Member States in this endeavour.

UNODC is of the view that every effort should be made to ensure the development of a regional operational approach to address transnational organized crime and facilitate cooperation among all Caribbean Member States, including Cuba.

United Nations Population Fund

[Original: English]
[11 July 2011]

Since the previous report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in May 2010, the main measures of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States against Cuba have remained invariable. The embargo continues to affect the quality of life of the Cuban people, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

The UNFPA country programme continues to face many difficulties in the acquisition and purchasing of commodities, equipment, medicines and laboratory materials produced by the United States or covered by United States patents. This has an impact on the costs of the country programme, since providers need to import almost all commodities for their respective projects.

In April 2011, the sixth Congress of the Cuban Communist Party approved a new economic and social policy and began a wide-ranging debate on a package of more than 311 socio-economic reforms. The decisions on institutional change have an impact on UNFPA programme implementation and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework formulation process.

Efforts to build networks with political, academic and social actors who support the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the UNFPA mandate continue. UNFPA is one of the very few sources of funding to support sexual and reproductive health, population and development and gender programmes. Efforts are also being pursued in the area of resource mobilization.

Universal Postal Union

[Original: English]
[20 May 2011]

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is not directly involved in implementing General Assembly resolution 65/6, which affects only Member States.

UPU has always regarded Cuba as a fully fledged member of the Union. As such, Cuba enjoys the same rights and obligations as other UPU members. In 2010, Cuba benefited from joint UPU/Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal regional development projects foreseen in the UPU Regional Development Plan for Latin America in the fields of postal payment services and quality of service. Cuba specifically benefited from a scholarship awarded to one staff member for training courses on postal payment services, postal quality of service and training of trainers. Furthermore, a specific training on human resources management was organized by the UPU in Cuba.

Furthermore, Cuba has been a member of the UPU Council of Administration and Postal Operation Council since the last UPU Congress, held in 2008, and serves on a number of the Council's committees and working groups.

World Food Programme

[Original: English]
[8 July 2011]

The United States embargo continues to severely limit trade and has a direct impact on the capacity and efficiency of Cuba's logistics infrastructure (port, warehousing, commodity tracking), food processing and agricultural production. The efficiency of the food-based social safety nets of the Cuban Government's, which are instrumental to household food security, is thereby negatively affected. This year, the effect is even more crippling because of the combined factors of rising food prices and persistent drought in Cuba. Along with limited access to agricultural inputs, these factors constrain domestic food production and force the Government to continue importing a significant portion of its domestic food requirements. This, in turn, places pressure on the strained social sector budget and has an impact on people's well-being, especially those most dependent on social safety nets. Micronutrient deficiencies are a concern. Anaemia prevalence continues to be high, especially among children under 2 years of age, jeopardizing their development potential.

The impact is stronger in the eastern provinces, where food insecurity is higher. The procurement and shipment of food and non-food commodities was delayed owing to the above-mentioned logistical challenges. Because of the embargo, vessels are obliged to make a stopover in a neighbouring country for trans-shipment. This causes delays and additional costs, which also affect World Food Programme shipments.

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization

[Original: English/Spanish]
[6 June 2011]

Impact on the population, the health sector and on individual health

In economic terms, calculated using data from various Cuban governmental sources, the cumulative cost of the embargo to the health sector amounted to $2,334.5 million as at May 2011. This is attributable mainly to purchases of drugs, reagents, spare parts for medical diagnosis and treatment equipment, medical and surgical instruments and other supplies from remote markets and through intermediaries, which consequently increases costs. In the health sector, the consequences of the embargo have a negative multiplier effect on the cost of basic everyday health products, on the difficulties in acquiring health products, on the availability of basic services and, therefore, on the overall living conditions of the population.

The limitations imposed by the embargo have only worsened with the global economic crisis, which does not exclude Cuba.

Public health is jeopardized by the lack of investment in infrastructure, for example, in housing, roads, water and sanitation. More directly, public health is affected by the lack of necessary resources to address epidemiological threats.

The embargo also stunts public health development in Cuba by preventing the country's access to loans and donations from international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as by limiting its access to philanthropic contributions and donations from civil society in the United States. Owing to the embargo, Cuba procures its goods through subsidiary companies that can inflate costs and are not always able to provide the specific items needed, which forces the purchase of similar or related goods that can potentially compromise the quality of health care and hence the quality of life in Cuba. The complexity of the embargo's impact makes it difficult to calculate its precise magnitude and monetary cost.

The embargo affects the individual health care of all people, regardless of age or gender, through its impact on Cuba's unified health system institutions, research facilities, epidemiological surveillance institutions and disease control agencies.

Research

The embargo continues to limit scientific exchange, despite the recognized advances in innovation and science in the country. The country does not have access to underwater fibre-optic cables, which limits connectivity and increases the costs. This also limits Cuban participation in virtual forums, scientific communities and relevant research events, as well as access to open-source software. In addition, the Cuban scientific community is at a disadvantage because of the limited opportunities to receive grants and scholarships from the United States for further studies and training in the development of research projects.

Health services

Oncology services have had difficulty obtaining cytostatic cyclophosphamide, used in cancer treatment, as well as difficulty acquiring flow cytometers, because the manufacturer, Becton, Dickinson and Company, has refused to sell them to Cuba.

Cardiology and cardiovascular surgery services are affected by the difficulty in procuring key supplies, such as Horizon mammary clips and Medtronic cardiac stabilizers and mobilizers, as well as an intracoronary ultrasound. The William Soler Paediatric Cardiology Centre has been affected directly in terms of its supplies of the catheters, coils, guides and stents used in the diagnosis and treatment of children with complex congenital heart diseases.

Care for patients with serious renal failure who require transplants has been affected by the impossibility of purchasing a gamma topography chamber from General Electric and high-quality anti-HLA (human leukocyte antigen) reagents from One Lambda, a United States company, which has resulted in the shutdown of the national transplant programme.

The Camilo Cienfuegos International Centre for Retinitis Pigmentosa has found it impossible to obtain the electrodes necessary for the piece of equipment used in electro-ocular stimulation.

In addition, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO office in Cuba received a letter from the Minister of Health of Cuba addressed to the PAHO Director reporting that the funds allocated to the priority programme to fight AIDS and tuberculosis (more than $4 million) provided by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which had been transferred to the account of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had been intercepted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury. Through numerous efforts by Fund and UNDP, the funds were finally released late in April 2011.

Impact on technical cooperation

Due to the embargo, the PAHO/WHO country office in Cuba incurs higher administrative costs than other country offices of the organization. As a result, fewer resources are available for the implementation of technical cooperation programmes in the country. The economic embargo on Cuba has affected the ability of PAHO/WHO to acquire office equipment and materials for the operation of its technical cooperation programmes.

The PAHO/WHO country office in Cuba is unable to receive computers, maintenance or other supplies that are centrally managed and distributed by the PAHO Regional Office in the United States for all of the corresponding country offices, which has made it difficult to maintain the uniformity of the technology used in all country offices. This forces the country office in Cuba to acquire all of its technology services from more remote regions, and generates a significant increase in costs.

Vendors and providers face increasing limitations in continuing to operating this type of technology in Cuba. Moreover, the country office in Cuba cannot directly purchase software that PAHO has standardized for use across all PAHO/WHO regional entities. There are an increasing number of web pages in the United States that cannot be accessed from Cuba, even though they are widely used around the world.

Within Cuba, access is denied to any the Google Code (code.google.com) and SourceForge (sourceforge.net) websites, which together constitute two of the largest and most complete repositories of computer software. The case of code.google.com is especially relevant, since it contains the software libraries and instruments developed by Google to access its own services, including the software and documentation for its Android platform. In addition, Oracle denies downloads of the virtual machines for Java and Adobe and of the installers for Flash Player and other essential technologies for use with a broad range of Internet and network services (Elluminate, YouTube) and tools (Greenstone, BigBlueButton).

There is an increase in the number of web pages that do not allow access from Cuba to view or download information, including free software packages. This limits the access of Cuban technical and professional staff to equal opportunities for information and professional development.

The embargo has also limited progress in the scientific field by hindering the participation of Cuban professionals in scientific and other technical meetings, where the exchange of knowledge and experiences is encouraged and fostered so as to strengthen national capacities. The embargo prevents the inclusion of drugs and vaccines produced in Cuba in research development protocols in the United States. The embargo hinders Cuba's representation in international organizations in the United States owing to delays or failures in issuing the necessary visas for travel, as was the case in the delay of the visa for the Cuban Government representative attending the last meeting of the PAHO Directing Council, held in September 2010.

Finally, the organization also recognizes the negative effect of the embargo on public health in general, beyond that of the Cuban population. By excluding Cuba from participation in regional and global activities, the embargo has an impact on global progress towards improving health for all.

World Intellectual Property Organization

[Original: English]
[7 June 2011]

As a result of the embargo, the following circumstances have been observed in Cuba as an obstacle to the country's advancement in the field of intellectual property and as having a direct impact on its technological, social and economic development:

(a) By restricting the access of Cuban citizens to the United States, the embargo limits the possibilities of human resources development on American soil. As a result, specialized Cuban professionals may not fully benefit from higher specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, which are particularly available in the United States. These include opportunities to gain experience in successfully implementing technology transfer offices, as well as in technology management and intellectual property valuation and collateralization — issues of extreme relevance for the effective use of the intellectual property system;

(b) Visa restrictions also hinder the possibilities for Cuban intellectual property professionals to participate in regular training programmes, meetings and other events organized in the United States by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);

(c) Restricted telecommunications infrastructure also hinders the widespread dissemination of WIPO online distance learning courses in Cuba, despite the efforts and commitment of local authorities to foster a nationwide culture of respect for intellectual property. Facilities for videoconferencing — a highly efficient and cost-effective means of communication, especially for educational and training purposes — are also unavailable, since a most of the technical equipment and software tools required originate from the United States and may not be acquired;

(d) Poor telecommunications facilities also have a negative impact on and obstruct the access of Cuban nationals to WIPO online databases and other digital services in the field of intellectual property. This situation, in particular the lack of online access to patent information databases, including Patentscope and others, which are available only through the Internet, is detrimental to the advancement of technological research and other innovation programmes carried out by the Government of Cuba in the fields of environmental, medical and life sciences and bio- and nanotechnology;

(e) The embargo also affects the availability of information technology equipment and software for the performance of administrative operations regarding filing and granting procedures, in particular patent and trademarks search and examination services. Although the country is administratively equipped to perform such functions, thanks to the presence of provincial branches of the Cuban Industrial Property Office, the lack of specialized software critically hinders such performance. External procurement formalities to obtain the required equipment and software are extremely burdensome. This situation continues to cumulatively delay the services that these offices are required to render and prevents the normal growth and expansion of such services. Most importantly, this situation stifles the possibility to take full advantage of the functionalities available under the WIPO Intellectual Property Automated System, since some of the System's operating tools are not freely accessible to users in Cuba. As such, the possibilities of expanding and customizing the System to meet the needs of Cuban users (both in the capital and in the provinces) are seriously compromised;

(f) The extraterritorial effects of the embargo extend to the financial arena as well. Payments from Cuba to WIPO under the WIPO-administered treaties (Patent Cooperation Treaty, Madrid) may only be effected in euros or Swiss francs, not in United States dollars, in order to avoid the restrictions imposed by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control. Likewise, payments from WIPO to the Cuban Intellectual Property Office must be made in the same currencies. The cost of these indirect transactions for the purpose of avoiding United States banks causes considerable financial losses and discourages the use by Cuban nationals of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and Madrid Agreement systems.

World Meteorological Organization

[Original: English]
[29 June 2011]

The embargo may have limited the access of the Cuban Institute of Meteorology to projects or the acquisition of some equipment produced in countries adhering to this blockade. However, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba did not affect the normal fulfilment or scientific-technical relations between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Cuban Institute of Meteorology or between the Institute and the rest of the national meteorological and hydrological services in the region or the world.

Throughout the blockade, the Cuban Institute of Meteorology has exchanged meteorological, hydrological and climate data with other national meteorological and hydrological services and regional centres without restrictions. The Institute received all available technical documentation produced in the WMO secretariat for distribution to all member countries.

The most important point is that the Institute received the available technical documentation, which enabled it to serve its users and its staff to attend meetings organized by WMO or other meteorological centres in the region or the world, including technical commissions, working groups or lectures at the scientific and technical level.

Cuba had remained active in WMO Regional Association IV, notably as Chair of the Working Group on Hydrology and a regular participant in the regional Hurricane Committee.

World Tourism Organization

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

During the period from April 2010 to March 2011, the United States applied the embargo to general activities in the tourism sector, including the restriction on United States citizens from travelling to Cuba.

According to preliminary statistics compiled by the Caribbean Tourism Organization, outbound tourism from the United States to the region grew by 5.7 per cent and is estimated to have reached 11.5 million visitors during 2010. Based on different assumptions, 15 per cent of American travellers to the Caribbean would visit Cuba if there were no restrictions. The data show that American tourists would spend an estimated average of $967. Consequently, if Cuba could have received around 1,725,000 American visitors, its tourism industry would have generated revenues of $1.6 billion.

Travel restrictions affect various modes of tourism, such as transportation by sea, which includes yachts and sailing boats. Potential revenue from these tourist products has also been affected during the past 12 months.

Marinas operated by the Marlin group of companies have a total of 650 berths, none of which can be offered to American boats. The company therefore loses $5 million in potential revenue. Supply services, such as water, energy, custody, fuel, shopping and yacht repair, could have generated additional revenue of $10 million.

Electronic commerce is also restricted, which affects the use of Internet and credit card transactions processing as a means of payment for air ticket sales and reservations in other tourism services.

Havanatur, a tour operator based in Canada, is subject to a credit card processing fee of 3.79 per cent, which is 1.6 per cent higher than the fee charged to other tour operators based in that country.

The Office of Foreign Assets Control continued to apply its policy of restricting travel to Cuba, in accordance with the indications of the Treasury Department. Some United States citizens were unable to obtain travel authorization to Cuba and, as a result, American travel agencies were forced to cancel at least six itineraries to Cuba in 2010.

The company Tiendas de Turismo Caracol was negatively affected by the embargo, as it was impossible for it to acquire some products from the United States that were in high demand by tourists. The company incurred consequent expenditures of up to $0.5 million. Shipping expenditures increased to $17.6 million.

Comercializadora ITH, a tourism supplier, recorded estimated losses of $26.7 million during 2010, attributable to the price difference of goods that it had to purchase through third markets instead of directly from the United States; excessive interest rates on commercial credit; and fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, given that payments in United States dollars are prohibited under the embargo.

The transportation group Transtur saw its revenues decline in the wake of $31.5 million in sales cancellations from a car supplier in Canada, which also affected the quality of its services.

These facts reflect, in general, the overall effects of the United States embargo on the Cuban tourism industry throughout the years.

World Trade Organization

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

Although members of the World Trade Organization do not address the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, there are various forums and mechanisms in the World Trade Organization where the United States, Cuba and other members can address issues relating to their rights and obligations. These include, inter alia, obligations with regard to non-discrimination, prohibition of quotas and the possibility of invoking exceptions to these obligations.

In 2010, as in previous years, this issue was raised in a number of instances, including in the Dispute Settlement Body on 22 June, 20 July, 31 August, 21 September, 25 October, 23 November and 17 December. The issue was also raised in 2011, on 25 January, 24 February, 25 March and 21 April. Similarly, this matter was referred to at the General Council meeting of 14 December 2010 and during the trade policy review of the United States, held from 29 September to 1 October 2010.